

Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other Molecules Associated With Plants

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/255,619 filed on December 14, 2000, the disclosures of which application is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

INCORPORATION OF SEQUENCE LISTING

10 This application contains a sequence listing, which is contained on three identical CD-ROMs: two copies of a sequence listing (Copy 1 and Copy 2) and a sequence listing Computer Readable Form (CRF), all of which are herein incorporated by reference. All three CD-ROMs each contain one file called "pa_00393.rpt" which is 15,421,237 bytes in size and was created on December 05,2001.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

15 The present invention is in the field of plant biochemistry. More specifically the invention relates to nucleic acid molecules that encode proteins and fragments of proteins produced in plant cells, in particular, cotton plants. The invention also relates to proteins and fragments of proteins so encoded and antibodies capable of binding the proteins. The invention also relates to methods of using the nucleic acid molecules, proteins and fragments of proteins.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

25 I. Expressed Sequence Tag Nucleic Acid Molecules

Expressed sequence tags, or ESTs, are short sequences of randomly selected clones from a cDNA (or complementary DNA) library which are representative of the cDNA inserts of these randomly selected clones. McCombie, *et al.*, *Nature Genetics*, 1:124-130 (1992); Kurata, *et al.*, *Nature Genetics*, 8: 365-372 (1994); Okubo, *et al.*, *Nature Genetics*, 2: 173-179 (1992), all of which references are
30 incorporated herein in their entirety.

Using conventional methodologies, cDNA libraries can be constructed from the mRNA (messenger RNA) of a given tissue or organism using poly dT primers and reverse transcriptase (Efstratiadis, *et al.*, *Cell* 7:279-288 (1976); Higuchi, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 73:3146-3150 (1976); Maniatis, *et al.*, *Cell* 8:163 (1976); Land, *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 9:2251-2266 (1981);

Okayama, *et al.*, *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 2:161-170 (1982); Gubler, *et al.*, *Gene* 25:263 (1983); all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

Several methods may be employed to obtain full-length cDNA constructs. For example, terminal transferase can be used to add homopolymeric tails of dC residues to the free 3' hydroxyl groups (Land, *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 9:2251-2266 (1981), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). This tail can then be hybridized by a poly dG oligo which can act as a primer for the synthesis of full length second strand cDNA. Okayama and Berg, report a method for obtaining full length cDNA constructs. This method has been simplified by using synthetic primer-adapters that have both homopolymeric tails for priming the synthesis of the first and second strands and restriction sites for cloning into plasmids (Coleclough, *et al.*, *Gene* 34:305-314 (1985), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety) and bacteriophage vectors (Krawinkel, *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 14:1913 (1986); and Han, *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 15:6304 (1987); both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

These strategies have been coupled with additional strategies for isolating rare mRNA populations. For example, a typical mammalian cell contains between 10,000 and 30,000 different mRNA sequences. Davidson, *Gene Activity in Early Development*, 2nd ed., Academic Press, New York (1976). The number of clones required to achieve a given probability that a low-abundance mRNA will be present in a cDNA library is $N = (\ln(1-P))/(\ln(1-1/n))$ where N is the number of clones required, P is the probability desired, and 1/n is the fractional proportion of the total mRNA that is represented by a single rare mRNA. (Sambrook, *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, 2nd ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press (1989), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

A method to enrich preparations of mRNA for sequences of interest is to fractionate by size. One such method is to fractionate by electrophoresis through an agarose gel (Pennica, *et al.*, *Nature* 301:214-221 (1983), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). Another such method employs sucrose gradient centrifugation in the presence of an agent, such as methylmercuric hydroxide, that denatures secondary structure in RNA (Schweinfest, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 79:4997-5000 (1982), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

A frequently adopted method is to construct equalized or normalized cDNA libraries (Ko, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 18:5705-5711 (1990); Patanjali, S. R. *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 88:1943-1947 (1991); both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). Typically, the cDNA population is normalized by subtractive hybridization (Schmid, *et al.*, *J. Neurochem.* 48:307-312 (1987); Fagnoli, *et al.*, *Anal. Biochem.* 187:364-373 (1990); Travis, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 85:1696-1700 (1988); Kato, *Eur. J. Neurosci.* 2:704 (1990); and Schweinfest, *et al.*, *Genet. Anal. Tech. Appl.* 7:64 (1990); all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). Subtraction

represents another method for reducing the population of certain sequences in the cDNA library (Swaroop, *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 19:1954 (1991), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

ESTs can be sequenced by a number of methods. Two basic methods may be used for DNA sequencing, the chain termination method of Sanger *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 74: 5463-5467 (1977), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference and the chemical degradation method of Maxam and Gilbert, *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 74: 560-564 (1977), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference. Automation and advances in technology such as the replacement of radioisotopes with fluorescence-based sequencing have reduced the effort required to sequence DNA (Craxton, *Methods*, 2: 20-26 (1991); Ju *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 92: 4347-4351 (1995); Tabor and Richardson, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 92: 6339-6343 (1995); all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). Automated sequencers are available from, for example, Pharmacia Biotech, Inc., Piscataway, New Jersey (Pharmacia ALF), LI-COR, Inc., Lincoln, Nebraska (LI-COR 4,000) and Millipore, Bedford, Massachusetts (Millipore BaseStation).

In addition, advances in capillary gel electrophoresis have also reduced the effort required to sequence DNA and such advances provide a rapid high resolution approach for sequencing DNA samples (Swerdlow and Gesteland, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 18:1415-1419 (1990); Smith, *Nature* 349:812-813 (1991); Luckey *et al.*, *Methods Enzymol.* 218:154-172 (1993); Lu *et al.*, *J. Chromatog. A.* 680:497-501 (1994); Carson *et al.*, *Anal. Chem.* 65:3219-3226 (1993); Huang *et al.*, *Anal. Chem.* 64:2149-2154 (1992); Kheterpal *et al.*, *Electrophoresis* 17:1852-1859 (1996); Quesada and Zhang, *Electrophoresis* 17:1841-1851 (1996); Baba, *Yakugaku Zasshi* 117:265-281 (1997), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

ESTs longer than 150 bases have been found to be useful for similarity searches and mapping. (Adams, *et al.*, *Science* 252:1651-1656 (1991), herein incorporated by reference.) EST sequences normally range from 150-450 bases. This is the length of sequence information that is routinely and reliably generated using single run sequence data. Typically, only single run sequence data is obtained from the cDNA library, Adams, *et al.*, *Science* 252:1651-1656 (1991). Automated single run sequencing typically results in an approximately 2-3% error or base ambiguity rate. (Boguski, *et al.*, *Nature Genetics*, 4:332-333 (1993), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

EST databases have been constructed or partially constructed from, for example, *C. elegans* (McCombie, *et al.*, *Nature Genetics* 1:124-131 (1992)), human liver cell line HepG2 (Okubo, *et al.*, *Nature Genetics* 2:173-179 (1992)), human brain RNA (Adams, *et al.*, *Science* 252:1651-1656 (1991); Adams, *et al.*, *Nature* 355:632-635 (1992)), *Arabidopsis*, (Newman, *et al.*, *Plant Physiol.* 106:1241-1255 (1994)); and rice (Kurata, *et al.*, *Nature Genetics* 8:365-372 (1994)).

II. Sequence Comparisons

A characteristic feature of a protein or DNA sequence is that it can be compared with other known protein or DNA sequences. Sequence comparisons can be undertaken by determining the similarity of the test or query sequence with sequences in publicly available or propriety databases (“similarity analysis”) or by searching for certain motifs (“intrinsic sequence analysis”)(e.g. *cis* elements)(Coulson, *Trends in Biotechnology*, 12: 76-80 (1994); Birren, *et al.*, *Genome Analysis*, 1: 543-559 (1997); both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

Similarity analysis includes database search and alignment. Examples of public databases include the DNA Database of Japan (DDBJ)(<http://www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp/>); Genebank (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/web/Genbank/Index.html>); and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory Nucleic Acid Sequence Database (EMBL) (http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ebi_docs/embl_db.html). A number of different search algorithms have been developed, one example of which are the suite of programs referred to as BLAST programs. There are five implementations of BLAST, three designed for nucleotide sequences queries (BLASTN, BLASTX, and TBLASTX) and two designed for protein sequence queries (BLASTP and TBLASTN) (Coulson, *Trends in Biotechnology*, 12: 76-80 (1994); Birren, *et al.*, *Genome Analysis*, 1: 543-559 (1997)).

BLASTN takes a nucleotide sequence (the query sequence) and its reverse complement and searches them against a nucleotide sequence database. BLASTN was designed for speed, not maximum sensitivity, and may not find distantly related coding sequences. BLASTX takes a nucleotide sequence, translates it in three forward reading frames and three reverse complement reading frames, and then compares the six translations against a protein sequence database. BLASTX is useful for sensitive analysis of preliminary (single-pass) sequence data and is tolerant of sequencing errors (Gish and States, *Nature Genetics*, 3: 266-272 (1993), herein incorporated by reference). BLASTN and BLASTX may be used in concert for analyzing EST data (Coulson, *Trends in Biotechnology*, 12: 76-80 (1994); Birren, *et al.*, *Genome Analysis*, 1: 543-559 (1997)).

Given a coding nucleotide sequence and the protein it encodes, it is often preferable to use the protein as the query sequence to search a database because of the greatly increased sensitivity to detect more subtle relationships. This is due to the larger alphabet of proteins (20 amino acids) compared with the alphabet of nucleic acid sequences (4 bases), where it is far easier to obtain a match by chance. In addition, with nucleotide alignments, only a match (positive score) or a mismatch (negative score) is obtained, but with proteins, the presence of conservative amino acid substitutions can be taken into account. Here, a mismatch may yield a positive score if the non-identical residue has physical/chemical properties similar to the one it replaced. Various scoring matrices are used to supply the substitution

scores of all possible amino acid pairs. A general purpose scoring system is the BLOSUM62 matrix (Henikoff and Henikoff, *Proteins*, 17: 49-61 (1993), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), which is currently the default choice for BLAST programs. BLOSUM62 is tailored for alignments of moderately diverged sequences and thus may not yield the best results under all conditions. Altschul, *J. Mol. Biol.* 36: 290-300 (1993), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety, uses a combination of three matrices to cover all contingencies. This may improve sensitivity, but at the expense of slower searches. In practice, a single BLOSUM62 matrix is often used but others (PAM40 and PAM250) may be attempted when additional analysis is necessary. Low PAM matrices are directed at detecting very strong but localized sequence similarities, whereas high PAM matrices are directed at detecting long but weak alignments between very distantly related sequences.

Homologues in other organisms are available that can be used for comparative sequence analysis. Multiple alignments are performed to study similarities and differences in a group of related sequences. CLUSTAL W is a multiple sequence alignment package available that performs progressive multiple sequence alignments based on the method of Feng and Doolittle, *J. Mol. Evol.* 25: 351-360 (1987), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference. Each pair of sequences is aligned and the distance between each pair is calculated; from this distance matrix, a guide tree is calculated, and all of the sequences are progressively aligned based on this tree. A feature of the program is its sensitivity to the effect of gaps on the alignment; gap penalties are varied to encourage the insertion of gaps in probable loop regions instead of in the middle of structured regions. Users can specify gap penalties, choose between a number of scoring matrices, or supply their own scoring matrix for both the pairwise alignments and the multiple alignments. CLUSTAL W for UNIX and VMS systems is available at: <ftp.ebi.ac.uk>. Another program is MACAW (Schuler *et al.*, *Proteins, Struct. Func. Genet.* 9:180-190 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference, for which both Macintosh and Microsoft Windows versions are available. MACAW uses a graphical interface, provides a choice of several alignment algorithms, and is available by anonymous ftp at: <ncbi.nlm.nih.gov> (directory/pub/macaw).

Sequence motifs are derived from multiple alignments and can be used to examine individual sequences or an entire database for subtle patterns. With motifs, it is sometimes possible to detect distant relationships that may not be demonstrable based on comparisons of primary sequences alone. Currently, the largest collection of sequence motifs in the world is PROSITE (Bairoch and Bucher, *Nucleic Acid Research*, 22: 3583-3589 (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference.) PROSITE may be accessed via either the ExPASy server on the World Wide Web or anonymous ftp site. Many commercial sequence analysis packages also provide search programs that use PROSITE data.

A resource for searching protein motifs is the BLOCKS E-mail server developed by S. Henikoff, *Trends Biochem Sci.*, 18:267-268 (1993); Henikoff and Henikoff, *Nucleic Acid Research*, 19:6565-6572 (1991); Henikoff and Henikoff, *Proteins*, 17: 49-61 (1993); all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). BLOCKS searches a protein or nucleotide sequence against a database of protein motifs or "blocks." Blocks are defined as short, ungapped multiple alignments that represent highly conserved protein patterns. The blocks themselves are derived from entries in PROSITE as well as other sources. Either a protein or nucleotide query can be submitted to the BLOCKS server; if a nucleotide sequence is submitted, the sequence is translated in all six reading frames and motifs are sought in these conceptual translations. Once the search is completed, the server will return a ranked list of significant matches, along with an alignment of the query sequence to the matched BLOCKS entries.

Conserved protein domains can be represented by two-dimensional matrices, which measure either the frequency or probability of the occurrences of each amino acid residue and deletions or insertions in each position of the domain. This type of model, when used to search against protein databases, is sensitive and usually yields more accurate results than simple motif searches. Two popular implementations of this approach are profile searches (such as GCG program ProfileSearch) and Hidden Markov Models (HMMs)(Krough *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 235:1501-1531 (1994); Eddy, *Current Opinion in Structural Biology* 6:361-365 (1996), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). In both cases, a large number of common protein domains have been converted into profiles, as present in the PROSITE library, or HHM models, as in the Pfam protein domain library (Sonnhammer *et al.*, *Proteins* 28:405-420 (1997), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Pfam contains more than 500 HMM models for enzymes, transcription factors, signal transduction molecules, and structural proteins. Protein databases can be queried with these profiles or HMM models, which will identify proteins containing the domain of interest. For example, HMMSW or HMMFS, two programs in a public domain package called HMMER (Sonnhammer *et al.*, *Proteins* 28:405-420 (1997)) can be used.

PROSITE and BLOCKS represent collected families of protein motifs. Thus, searching these databases entails submitting a single sequence to determine whether or not that sequence is similar to the members of an established family. Programs working in the opposite direction compare a collection of sequences with individual entries in the protein databases. An example of such a program is the Motif Search Tool, or MoST (Tatusov *et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* 91: 12091-12095 (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference.) On the basis of an aligned set of input sequences, a weight matrix is calculated by using one of four methods (selected by the user); a weight matrix is simply a representation, position by position in an alignment, of how likely a particular amino acid will appear. The calculated weight matrix is then used to search the databases. To increase sensitivity, newly found

sequences are added to the original data set, the weight matrix is recalculated, and the search is performed again. This procedure continues until no new sequences are found.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention provides a substantially purified nucleic acid molecule that encodes a cotton protein or fragment thereof comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 17880.

10 The present invention also provides one or more substantially purified nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 17880 or complements thereof.

The present invention also provides a substantially purified cotton protein or fragment thereof, wherein said cotton protein is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that comprises a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 17880.

15 The present invention further provides a substantially purified protein, peptide, or fragment thereof encoded by a nucleic acid sequence which specifically hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of a complement of SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 17880.

20 The present invention further provides a substantially purified antibody capable of specifically binding to a protein or fragment thereof encoded by a nucleic acid sequence which specifically hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule having a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of a complement of SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 17880.

25 The present invention also provides a transformed plant transformed to contain a nucleic acid molecule which comprises: (A) an exogenous promoter region which functions in plant cells to cause the production of an mRNA molecule; which is linked to (B) a structural nucleic acid molecule, wherein said structural nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a protein, peptide, or fragment thereof which hybridizes to a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of a complement of SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 17880 expressed in an effective amount to produce a desirable agronomic effect; which is linked to (C) a 3' non-translated sequence that functions in plant cells to cause the termination of transcription and the addition of polyadenylated ribonucleotides to the 3' end of the mRNA sequence.

30 The present invention also provides a transformed plant cell containing a nucleic acid molecule whose non-transcribed strand encodes a protein or fragment thereof, wherein the transcribed strand of said nucleic acid is complementary to a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a protein or fragment thereof.

The present invention also provides bacterial, viral, microbial, and plant cells comprising a nucleic acid molecule of the present invention

The present invention also provides a method of producing a plant containing one or more proteins encoded by sequences comprising SEQ ID NO:1 or complement thereof through SEQ ID NO:17880 or complements thereof, expressed in a sufficient amount and/or fashion to produce a desirable agronomic effect.

In accomplishing the foregoing, there is provided, in accordance with one aspect of the present invention, methods of producing genetically transformed plants, comprising the steps of:

- (a) inserting into the genome of a plant cell a recombinant, double-stranded DNA molecule comprising
 - (i) a promoter which functions in plant cells to cause the production of an RNA sequence,
 - (ii) a structural DNA sequence that causes the production of an RNA sequence which encodes a desired protein.
 - (iii) a 3' non-translated DNA sequence which functions in plant cells to cause the addition of polyadenylated nucleotides to the 3' end of RNA sequence; where the promoter is homologous or heterologous with respect to the coding sequence and adapted to cause sufficient expression of a protein in desired plant tissues to enhance the agronomic utility of a plant transformed with said gene.
- (b) obtaining a transformed plant cell with said nucleic acid molecule that encodes one or more proteins, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is transcribed and results in expression of said protein(s); and
- (c) regenerating from the transformed plant cell a genetically transformed plant

The present invention also encompasses differentiated plants, seeds, and progeny comprising said transformed plant cells and which exhibit novel properties of agronomic significance.

The present invention also provides a method of producing a plant containing reduced levels of a protein comprising: (A) transforming a plant cell with a nucleic acid molecule that encodes a protein, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is transcribed and results in co-suppression of endogenous protein synthesis activity, and (B) regenerating plants and producing subsequent progeny from the transformed plant.

The present invention also provides a method of determining an association between a polymorphism and a plant trait comprising: (A) hybridizing a nucleic acid molecule specific for a polymorphism to genetic material of a plant, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic

acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO:17880 or complements thereof; and (B) calculating the degree of association between the polymorphism and the plant trait.

The present invention also provides a method of isolating a genetic region, or nucleic acid that encodes a protein or fragment thereof comprising: (A) incubating under conditions permitting nucleic acid hybridization: a marker nucleic acid molecule, preferably an EST, with a complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from a plant cell or plant tissue; (B) permitting hybridization between said marker nucleic acid molecule, preferably an EST, and said complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from said plant cell or plant tissue; and (C) isolating said complementary nucleic acid molecule.

The present invention also provides a method for determining a level or pattern in a plant cell of a protein in a plant comprising: (A) incubating, under conditions permitting nucleic acid hybridization, a marker nucleic acid molecule, the marker nucleic acid molecule selected from the group of marker nucleic acid molecules which specifically hybridize to a nucleic acid molecule having the nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 17880 or complements thereof or fragments of either, with a complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from the plant cell or plant tissue, wherein nucleic acid hybridization between the marker nucleic acid molecule and the complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from the plant cell or plant tissue permits the detection of an mRNA for the enzyme; (B) permitting hybridization between the marker nucleic acid molecule and the complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from the plant cell or plant tissue; and (C) detecting the level or pattern of the complementary nucleic acid, wherein the detection of the complementary nucleic acid is predictive of the level or pattern of the protein.

The present invention also provides a method for determining the level or pattern of a protein in a plant cell or plant tissue comprising: (A) incubating under conditions permitting nucleic acid hybridization: a marker nucleic acid molecule, the marker nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO:17880 or complements thereof, with a complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from a plant cell or plant tissue, wherein nucleic acid hybridization between the marker nucleic acid molecule, and the complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from the plant cell or plant tissue permits the detection of said protein; (B) permitting hybridization between the marker nucleic acid molecule and the complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from the plant cell or plant tissue; and (C) detecting the level or pattern of the complementary nucleic acid, wherein the detection of said complementary nucleic acid is predictive of the level or pattern of the protein synthesis.

The present invention also provides a method for determining a level or pattern of a protein in a plant cell or plant tissue which comprises assaying the concentration of a molecule, whose concentration is dependent upon the expression of a gene, the gene having a nucleic acid sequence which specifically hybridizes to a protein marker nucleic acid molecule, the molecule being present in a plant cell or plant tissue, in comparison to the concentration of that molecule present in a plant cell or plant tissue with a known level or pattern of said protein, wherein an assayed concentration of the molecule is compared to the assayed concentration of the molecule in a plant cell or plant tissue with a known level or pattern of said protein.

The present invention also provides a method of determining a mutation in a plant whose presence is predictive of a mutation affecting a level or pattern of a protein comprising the steps: (A) incubating, under conditions permitting nucleic acid hybridization, a marker nucleic acid, the marker nucleic acid selected from the group of marker nucleic acid molecules which specifically hybridize to a nucleic acid molecule consisting of the nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 17880 or complements thereof or fragments of either and a complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from the plant, wherein nucleic acid hybridization between the marker nucleic acid molecule and the complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from the plant permits the detection of a polymorphism whose presence is predictive of a mutation affecting the level or pattern of the protein in the plant; (B) permitting hybridization between the marker nucleic acid molecule and the complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from the plant; and (C) detecting the presence of the polymorphism, wherein the detection of the polymorphism is predictive of the mutation.

The present invention also provides a method for determining a mutation in a plant whose presence is predictive of a mutation affecting the level or pattern of protein synthesis comprising the steps: (A) incubating under conditions permitting nucleic acid hybridization: a marker nucleic acid molecule, the marker nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid molecule that is linked to gene, the gene having a nucleic acid sequence which specifically hybridizes to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 17880 and complements thereof, and a complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from a plant tissue or plant cell of the plant, wherein nucleic acid hybridization between the marker nucleic acid molecule and the complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from the plant permits the detection of a polymorphism whose presence is predictive of a mutation affecting said level or pattern of a protein synthesis in the plant; (B) permitting hybridization between said marker nucleic acid molecule and said complementary nucleic acid molecule obtained from

said plant; and; (C) detecting the presence of the polymorphism, wherein the detection of the polymorphism is predictive of the mutation.

The present invention also provides a method for reducing expression of a protein in a plant cell, the method comprising: growing a transformed plant cell containing a nucleic acid molecule whose non-transcribed strand encodes a protein or fragment thereof, wherein the transcribed strand of said nucleic acid is complementary to a nucleic acid molecule that encodes the protein in said plant cell, and whereby the strand that is complementary to the nucleic acid molecule that encodes the protein reduces or depresses expression of the protein.

The present invention provides cotton nucleic acid molecules for use as molecular tags to isolate genetic regions (i.e. promoters and flanking sequences), isolate genes, map genes, and determine gene function. The present invention further provides cotton nucleic acid molecules for use in determining if genes are members of a particular gene family.

The present invention also provides a method of obtaining full length genes using cotton ESTs or complements thereof or fragments of either.

The present invention also provides a method of isolating promoters and flanking sequences using cotton ESTs or complements thereof or fragments of either.

The present invention also provides cotton ESTs or complements thereof or fragments of either for use in marker-assisted breeding programs.

The present invention also provides a method of identifying tissues comprising hybridizing nucleic acids from the tissue with cotton ESTs or complements thereof or fragments of either.

The present invention also provides a method for production of antibodies targeted against the proteins, peptides, or fragments produced by the disclosed or complements thereof or fragments of either.

The present invention also provides a method for the transformation and regeneration of plants comprising sequences hybridizable to the disclosed ESTs or complements thereof or fragments of either.

The present invention also provides a method of modifying plant protein expression by inserting in a chimeric gene sense or antisense constructs of the cotton ESTs.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Agents of the Present Invention

(a) Nucleic Acid Molecules

Agents of the present invention include substantially purified (or isolated) nucleic acid molecules and more specifically EST nucleic acid molecules or nucleic acid fragment molecules thereof. Fragment EST nucleic acid molecules may encode significant portion(s) of, or indeed most of, the EST nucleic acid

molecule. Alternatively, the fragments may comprise smaller oligonucleotides (having from about 15 to about 250 nucleotide residues, and more preferably, about 15 to about 30 nucleotide residues).

A subset of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention includes nucleic acid molecules that are marker molecules. Another subset of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention include nucleic acid molecules that encode a protein or fragment thereof. Another subset of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention are EST molecules.

The agents of the present invention may also be recombinant. As used herein, the term recombinant, refers to a) molecules that are constructed outside of living cells by joining natural or synthetic DNA segments to DNA molecules that can replicate in a living cell or b) molecules that result from the replication or expression of those molecules described above or c) amino acid molecules from different sources which are joined together.

The term "nucleic acid molecule" or "nucleic acid" refers to a single or double-stranded polymer of deoxyribonucleotide or ribonucleotide bases read from the 5' to the 3' end. Nucleic acid molecules may also optionally contain synthetic, non-natural or altered nucleotide bases that permit correct read through by a polymerase and do not alter expression of a polypeptide encoded by that nucleic acid molecule.

As used herein "a substantially purified nucleic acid" or "an isolated nucleic acid" refers to a nucleic acid that is no longer accompanied by some of materials with which it is associated in its natural state or to a nucleic acid the structure of which is not identical to that of any of naturally occurring nucleic acid. Examples of a substantially purified nucleic acid include: (1) DNAs which have the sequence of part of a naturally occurring genomic DNA molecules but are not flanked by two coding sequences that flank that part of the molecule in the genome of the organism in which it naturally occurs; (2) a nucleic acid incorporated into a vector or into the genomic DNA of a prokaryote or eukaryote in a manner such that the resulting molecule is not identical to any naturally occurring vector or genomic DNA; (3) a separate molecule such as a cDNA, a genomic fragment, a fragment produced by polymerase chain reaction (PCR), or a restriction fragment; (4) recombinant DNAs; and (5) synthetic DNAs. A substantially purified nucleic acid may also be comprised of one or more segments of cDNA, genomic DNA or synthetic DNA.

It is also contemplated by the inventors that the substantially purified (or isolated) nucleic acids of the present invention also include known types of modifications, for example, labels which are known in the art, methylation, "caps", substitution of one or more of the naturally occurring nucleotides with an analog. Other known modifications include internucleotide modifications, for example, those with uncharged linkages (methyl phosphonates, phosphotriesters, phosphoamidates, carbamates, etc.) and with charged linkages (phosphorothioates, phosphorodithioates, etc.), those containing pendant moieties, such

as, proteins (including nucleases, toxins, antibodies, signal peptides, poly-L-lysine, etc.), those with intercalators (acridine, psoralen, etc.), those containing chelators (metals, radioactive metals, boron, oxidative metals, etc.), those containing alkylators, and those with modified linkages.

It is understood that the agents of the present invention may be labeled with reagents that facilitate detection of the agent (e.g. fluorescent labels (Prober, *et al.*, *Science* 238:336-340 (1987), Albarella *et al.*, EP 144914), chemical labels (Sheldon *et al.*, U.S. Patent 4,582,789; Albarella *et al.*, U.S. Patent 4,563,417), modified bases (Miyoshi *et al.*, EP 119448).

The term "nucleotide sequence" or "nucleic acid sequence" refers to both the sense and antisense strands of a nucleic acid as either individual single strands or in the duplex. It includes, but is not limited to, self-replicating plasmids, chromosomal sequences, and infectious polymers of DNA or RNA.

A "coding sequence", "structural nucleotide sequence" or "structural nucleic acid molecule" is a nucleotide sequence which is translated into a polypeptide, usually via mRNA, when placed under the control of appropriate regulatory sequences. The boundaries of the coding sequence are determined by a translation start codon at the 5'-terminus and a translation stop codon at the 3'-terminus. A coding sequence can include, but is not limited to, genomic DNA, cDNA, and recombinant nucleotide sequences.

The term "recombinant DNAs" refers to DNAs that contains a genetically engineered modification through manipulation via mutagenesis, restriction enzymes, and the like.

The term "synthetic DNAs" refers to DNAs assembled from oligonucleotide building blocks that are chemically synthesized using procedures known to those skilled in the art. These building blocks are ligated and annealed to form DNA segments which are then enzymatically assembled to construct the entire DNA. "Chemically synthesized", as related to a sequence of DNA, means that the component nucleotides were assembled in vitro. Manual chemical synthesis of DNA may be accomplished using well established procedures, or automated chemical synthesis can be performed using one of a number of commercially available machines.

The agents of the present invention will preferably be "biologically active" with respect to either a structural attribute, such as the capacity of a nucleic acid to hybridize to another nucleic acid molecule, or the ability of a protein to be bound by antibody (or to compete with another molecule for such binding). Alternatively, such an attribute may be catalytic, and thus involve the capacity of the agent to mediate a chemical reaction or response.

It is further understood, that the present invention provides bacterial, viral, microbial, and plant cells comprising the agents of the present invention.

Nucleic acid molecules or fragment thereof of the present invention are capable of specifically hybridizing to other nucleic acid molecules under certain circumstances. As used herein, two nucleic acid molecules are said to be capable of specifically hybridizing to one another if the two molecules are capable of forming an anti-parallel, double-stranded nucleic acid structure. A nucleic acid molecule is said to be the "complement" of another nucleic acid molecule if they exhibit complete complementarity. As used herein, molecules are said to exhibit "complete complementarity" when every nucleotide of one of the molecules is complementary to a nucleotide of the other. Two molecules are said to be "minimally complementary" if they can hybridize to one another with sufficient stability to permit them to remain annealed to one another under at least conventional "low-stringency" conditions. Similarly, the molecules are said to be "complementary" if they can hybridize to one another with sufficient stability to permit them to remain annealed to one another under conventional "high-stringency" conditions. Conventional stringency conditions are described by Sambrook, *et al.*, In: *Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, 2nd Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Press*, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (1989), and by Haymes, *et al.* In: *Nucleic Acid Hybridization, A Practical Approach*, IRL Press, Washington, DC (1985), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference. Departures from complete complementarity are therefore permissible, as long as such departures do not completely preclude the capacity of the molecules to form a double-stranded structure. Thus, in order for an nucleic acid molecule or fragment of the present invention to serve as a primer or probe it need only be sufficiently complementary in sequence to be able to form a stable double-stranded structure under the particular solvent and salt concentrations employed.

Appropriate stringency conditions which promote DNA hybridization are, for example, 6.0 x sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45°C, followed by a wash of 2.0 x SSC at 50°C, are known to those skilled in the art or can be found in *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, John Wiley & Sons, N.Y. (1989), 6.3.1-6.3.6, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. For example, the salt concentration in the wash step can be selected from a low stringency of about 2.0 x SSC at 50°C to a high stringency of about 0.2 x SSC at 50°C. In addition, the temperature in the wash step can be increased from low stringency conditions at room temperature, about 22°C, to high stringency conditions at about 65°C. Both temperature and salt may be varied, or either the temperature or the salt concentration may be held constant while the other variable is changed.

In a preferred embodiment, a nucleic acid of the present invention will specifically hybridize to one or more of the nucleic acid molecules set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 17880 or complements thereof under moderately stringent conditions, for example, at about 2.0 x SSC and about 65°C.

In a particularly preferred embodiment, a nucleic acid of the present invention will include those nucleic acid molecules that specifically hybridize to one or more of the nucleic acid molecules set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 through SEQ ID NO: 17880 or complements thereof under high stringency conditions.

In one aspect of the present invention, the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention have one or more of the nucleic acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO:17880 or complements thereof. In another aspect of the present invention, one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention share between 100% and 90% sequence identity with one or more of the nucleic acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO:17880 or complements thereof. In a further aspect of the present invention, one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention share between 100% and 95% sequence identity with one or more of the nucleic acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO:17880 or complements thereof. In a more preferred aspect of the present invention, one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention share between 100% and 98% sequence identity with one or more of the nucleic acid sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO:17880 or complements thereof. In an even more preferred aspect of the present invention, one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention share between 100% and 99% sequence identity with one or more of the sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO:17880 or complements thereof. In a further, even more preferred aspect of the present invention, one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention exhibit 100% sequence identity with one or more nucleic acid molecules present within the cDNA libraries designated LIB3825, LIB3826, LIB3827, LIB3828, LIB3829, LIB3830, and LIB3831 (Monsanto Company, St. Louis, Missouri, United States of America).

"Percentage of sequence identity" is determined by comparing two optimally aligned sequences over a comparison window, wherein the portion of the polynucleotide sequence in the comparison window may comprise additions or deletions (i.e., gaps) as compared to the reference sequence (which does not comprise additions or deletions) for optimal alignment of the two sequences. The percentage is calculated by determining the number of positions at which the identical nucleic acid base or amino acid residue occurs in both sequences to yield the number of matched positions, dividing the number of matched positions by the total number of positions in the window of comparison and multiplying the result by 100 to yield the percentage of sequence identity. Methods commonly employed to determine percentage sequence identity between two sequences include, but are not limited to, those disclosed in *Guide to Hige Computers*, Martin J. Bishop, ed., Academic Press, San Diego, 1994, and Carillo, H., and Lipton, D.; *Siam, J Applied Math* (1988) 48:1073, herein incorporated by reference in their entirety. Methods to determine percentage sequence identity are codified in computer programs. Preferred

computer programs for determining percentage sequence identity between two sequences include, but are not limited to, the BLAST suite of programs publicly available from NCBI and other sources (*BLAST Manual*, Altschul *et al.*, Natl. Cent. Biotechnol. Inf., Natl. Library Med. (NCBI NLM) NIH, Bethesda, Md. 20894; Altschul *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 215:403-410 (1990), Pearson *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*

- 5 U.S.A. 85:2444-2448 (1988), the FAST programs (Pearson *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 85:2444-2448 (1988), the GAP and BESTFIT programs found in the GCG program package, (Madison, WI) and Cross_Match (Phi Green, University of Washington). Another preferred method to determine identity, is by the method of DNASTAR protein alignment protocol using the Jotun-Hein algorithm (Hein *et al.*, *Methods Enzymol.* 183:626-645 (1990)).

10 Polypeptides which are "substantially similar" share sequences as noted above except that residue positions which are not identical may differ by conservative amino acid changes. Conservative amino acid substitutions refer to the interchangeability of residues having similar side chains. "Conservative amino acid substitutions" refer to substitutions of one or more amino acids in a native amino acid sequence with another amino acid(s) having similar side chains, resulting in a silent change. Conserved substitutes for an amino acid within a native amino acid sequence can be selected from other members of the group to which the naturally occurring amino acid belongs. For example, a group of amino acids having aliphatic side chains is glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, and isoleucine; a group of amino acids having aliphatic-hydroxyl side chains is serine and threonine; a group of amino acids having amide-containing side chains is asparagine and glutamine; a group of amino acids having aromatic side chains is phenylalanine, tyrosine, and tryptophan; a group of amino acids having basic side chains is lysine, arginine, and histidine; and a group of amino acids having sulfur-containing side chains is cysteine and methionine. Preferred conservative amino acids substitution groups are: valine-leucine, valine-isoleucine, phenylalanine-tyrosine, lysine-arginine, alanine-valine, aspartic acid-glutamic acid, and asparagine-glutamine.

- 25 Optimal alignment of sequences for comparison can use any means to analyze sequence identity (homology) known in the art, e.g., by the progressive alignment method of termed "PILEUP" (Morrison, *Mol. Biol. Evol.* 14:428-441 (1997), as an example of the use of PILEUP); by the local homology algorithm of Smith & Waterman (*Adv. Appl. Math.* 2: 482 (1981)); by the homology alignment algorithm of Needleman & Wunsch (*J. Mol. Biol.* 48:443 (1970)); by the search for similarity method of Pearson
- 30 (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 85: 2444 (1988)); by computerized implementations of these algorithms (e.g., GAP, BESTFIT, FASTA, and TFASTA in the Wisconsin Genetics Software Package, Genetics Computer Group, 575 Science Dr., Madison, WI); ClustalW (CLUSTAL in the PC/Gene program by Intelligenetics, Mountain View, California, described by, e.g., Higgins, *Gene* 73: 237-244 (1988); Corpet,

Nucleic Acids Res. 16:10881-10890 (1988); Huang, Computer Applications in the Biosciences 8:155-165 (1992); and Pearson, Methods in Mol. Biol. 24:307-331 (1994); Pfam (Sonnhammer, Nucleic Acids Res. 26:322-325 (1998); TreeAlign (Hein, Methods Mol. Biol. 25:349-364 (1994); MEG-ALIGN, and SAM sequence alignment computer programs; or, by manual visual inspection.

Another example of algorithm that is suitable for determining sequence similarity is the BLAST algorithm, which is described in Altschul et al, J. Mol. Biol. 215: 403-410 (1990). Software for performing BLAST analyses is publicly available through the National Center for Biotechnology Information, <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>; see also Zhang, Genome Res. 7:649-656 (1997) for the "PowerBLAST" variation. This algorithm involves first identifying high scoring sequence pairs (HSPs) by identifying short words of length W in the query sequence that either match or satisfy some positive valued threshold score T when aligned with a word of the same length in a database sequence. T is referred to as the neighborhood word score threshold (Altschul et al, J. Mol. Biol. 215: 403-410 (1990)). These initial neighborhood word hits act as seeds for initiating searches to find longer HSPs containing them. The word hits are extended in both directions along each sequence for as far as the cumulative alignment score can be increased. Extension of the word hits in each direction are halted when: the cumulative alignment score falls off by the quantity X from its maximum achieved value; the cumulative score goes to zero or below, due to the accumulation of one or more negative-scoring residue alignments; or the end of either sequence is reached. The BLAST algorithm parameters W, T and X determine the sensitivity and speed of the alignment. The BLAST program uses as defaults a wordlength (W) of 11, the BLOSUM62 scoring matrix (see Henikoff, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 89:10915-10919(1992)) alignments (B) of 50, expectation (E) of 10, M=5, N=-4, and a comparison of both strands. The term BLAST refers to the BLAST algorithm which performs a statistical analysis of the similarity between two sequences; see, e.g., Karlin, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 90:5873-5787 (1993). One measure of similarity provided by the BLAST algorithm is the smallest sum probability (P(N)), which provides an indication of the probability by which a match between two nucleotide or amino acid sequences would occur by chance. For example, a nucleic acid is considered similar to a reference sequence if the smallest sum probability in a comparison of the test nucleic acid to the reference nucleic acid is less than about 0.1, more preferably less than about 0.01, and most preferably less than about 0.001.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, a cotton protein or fragment thereof of the present invention is a homologue of another plant protein. In another preferred embodiment of the present invention, a cotton protein or fragment thereof of the present invention is a homologue of a fungal protein. In another preferred embodiment of the present invention, a cotton protein or fragment thereof of the present invention is a homologue of mammalian protein. In another preferred embodiment

of the present invention, a cotton protein or fragment thereof of the present invention is a homologue of a bacterial protein. In another preferred embodiment of the present invention, a cotton protein or fragment thereof of the present invention is a homologue of an algal protein. In another preferred embodiment of the present invention, a cotton protein or fragment thereof of the present invention is a homologue of a soybean, maize, wheat, or sorghum protein.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the nucleic molecule of the present invention encodes a cotton protein or fragment thereof where a cotton protein or fragment thereof exhibits a BLAST probability score of greater than $1E-12$, preferably a BLAST probability score of between about $1E-30$ and about $1E-12$, even more preferably a BLAST probability score of greater than $1E-30$ with its homologue.

In another preferred embodiment of the present invention, the nucleic acid molecule encoding a cotton protein or fragment thereof exhibits a percentage sequence identity with its homologue of between about 25% and about 40%, more preferably of between about 40 and about 70%, even more preferably of between about 70% and about 90% and even more preferably between about 90% and 99%. In another preferred embodiment, of the present invention, a cotton protein or fragment thereof exhibits a percentage sequence identity with its homologue of 100%.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the nucleic molecule of the present invention encodes a cotton protein or fragment thereof where the cotton protein exhibits a BLAST score of greater than 120, preferably a BLAST score of between about 1450 and about 120, even more preferably a BLAST score of greater than 1450 with its homologue.

Nucleic acid molecules of the present invention also include non-cotton homologues. Preferred non-cotton homologues are selected from the group consisting of alfalfa, *Arabidopsis*, barley, *Brassica*, broccoli, cabbage, citrus, garlic, maize, oat, oilseed rape, onion, canola, flax, an ornamental plant, pea, peanut, pepper, potato, rice, rye, sorghum, soybean, strawberry, sugarcane, sugarbeet, tomato, wheat, poplar, pine, fir, eucalyptus, apple, lettuce, lentils, grape, banana, tea, turf grasses, sunflower, oil palm and *Phaseolus*.

The degeneracy of the genetic code, which allows different nucleic acid sequences to code for the same protein or peptide, is known in the literature. (U.S. Patent No. 4,757,006, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

In an aspect of the present invention, one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention differ in nucleic acid sequence from those encoding a cotton protein or fragment thereof in SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 17880 due to the degeneracy in the genetic code in that they encode the same protein but differ in nucleic acid sequence.

In another further aspect of the present invention, nucleic acid molecules of the present invention can comprise sequences, which differ from those encoding a protein or fragment thereof in SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 17880 due to fact that the different nucleic acid sequence encodes a protein having one or more conservative amino acid changes. It is understood that codons capable of coding for such conservative amino acid substitutions are known in the art.

It is well known in the art that one or more amino acids in a native sequence can be substituted with another amino acid(s), the charge and polarity of which are similar to that of the native amino acid, *i.e.*, a conservative amino acid substitution, resulting in a silent change. Biologically functional equivalents of the proteins or fragments thereof of the present invention can have 10 or fewer conservative amino acid changes, more preferably seven or fewer conservative amino acid changes, and most preferably five or fewer conservative amino acid changes. The encoding nucleotide sequence will thus have corresponding base substitutions, permitting it to encode biologically functional equivalent forms of the proteins or fragments of the present invention.

It is understood that certain amino acids may be substituted for other amino acids in a protein structure without appreciable loss of interactive binding capacity with structures such as, for example, antigen-binding regions of antibodies or binding sites on substrate molecules. Because it is the interactive capacity and nature of a protein that defines that protein's biological functional activity, certain amino acid sequence substitutions can be made in a protein sequence and, of course, its underlying DNA coding sequence and, nevertheless, obtain a protein with like properties. It is thus contemplated by the inventors that various changes may be made in the peptide sequences of the proteins or fragments of the present invention, or corresponding DNA sequences that encode said peptides, without appreciable loss of their biological utility or activity. It is understood that codons capable of coding for such amino acid changes are known in the art.

In making such changes, the hydropathic index of amino acids may be considered. The importance of the hydropathic amino acid index in conferring interactive biological function on a protein is generally understood in the art (Kyte and Doolittle, *J. Mol. Biol.* 157, 105-132 (1982), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). It is accepted that the relative hydropathic character of the amino acid contributes to the secondary structure of the resultant protein, which in turn defines the interaction of the protein with other molecules, for example, enzymes, substrates, receptors, DNA, antibodies, antigens, and the like.

Each amino acid has been assigned a hydropathic index on the basis of its hydrophobicity and charge characteristics (Kyte and Doolittle, 1982); these are isoleucine (+4.5), valine (+4.2), leucine (+3.8), phenylalanine (+2.8), cysteine/cystine (+2.5), methionine (+1.9), alanine (+1.8), glycine (-0.4),

threonine (-0.7), serine (-0.8), tryptophan (-0.9), tyrosine (-1.3), proline (-1.6), histidine (-3.2), glutamate (-3.5), glutamine (-3.5), aspartate (-3.5), asparagine (-3.5), lysine (-3.9), and arginine (-4.5).

In making such changes, the substitution of amino acids whose hydrophobic indices are within ± 2 is preferred, those which are within ± 1 are particularly preferred, and those within ± 0.5 are even more particularly preferred.

It is also understood in the art that the substitution of like amino acids can be made effectively on the basis of hydrophilicity. U.S. Patent 4,554,101, incorporated herein by reference in its entirety, states that the greatest local average hydrophilicity of a protein, as governed by the hydrophilicity of its adjacent amino acids, correlates with a biological property of the protein.

As detailed in U.S. Patent 4,554,101, the following hydrophilicity values have been assigned to amino acid residues: arginine (+3.0), lysine (+3.0), aspartate (+3.0 \pm 1), glutamate (+3.0 \pm 1), serine (+0.3), asparagine (+0.2), glutamine (+0.2), glycine (0), threonine (-0.4), proline (-0.5 \pm 1), alanine (-0.5), histidine (-0.5), cysteine (-1.0), methionine (-1.3), valine (-1.5), leucine (-1.8), isoleucine (-1.8), tyrosine (-2.3), phenylalanine (-2.5), and tryptophan (-3.4).

In making such changes, the substitution of amino acids whose hydrophilicity values are within ± 2 is preferred, those which are within ± 1 are particularly preferred, and those within ± 0.5 are even more particularly preferred.

In a further aspect of the present invention, one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention differ in nucleic acid sequence from those encoding a cotton protein or fragment thereof set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 17880 or fragment thereof due to the fact that one or more codons encoding an amino acid has been substituted for a codon that encodes a nonessential substitution of the amino acid originally encoded.

Isolation and identification of nucleic acids of the present invention are described in detail in Examples. All or a substantial portion of the nucleic acids of the present invention may be used to isolate cDNAs and nucleic acids encoding cotton protein homologues or fragments thereof from the same or other species.

A "substantial portion" of a nucleotide sequence comprises enough of the sequence to afford specific identification and/or isolation of a nucleic acid fragment comprising the sequence. In general, gene specific oligonucleotide probes comprising 20-30 contiguous nucleotides may be used in sequence-dependent methods of gene identification (e.g., Southern hybridization) and isolation (e.g., in situ hybridization of bacterial colonies or bacteriophage plaques). In addition, short oligonucleotides of 12-15 bases may be used as amplification primers in PCR in order to obtain a particular nucleic acid fragment comprising the primers. The skilled artisan, having the benefit of the sequences as reported herein, may

now use all or a substantial portion of the disclosed sequences for purposes known to those skilled in this art. Accordingly, the instant invention comprises the complete sequences as reported in the accompanying Sequence Listing, as well as substantial portions of those sequences as defined above.

Isolation of nucleic acids encoding protein homologues using sequence-dependent protocols is well known in the art. Examples of sequence-dependent protocols include, but are not limited to, methods of nucleic acid hybridization, and methods of DNA and RNA amplification as exemplified by various uses of nucleic acid amplification technologies (e.g., polymerase chain reaction, ligase chain reaction).

For example, structural nucleic acids encoding a cotton protein or fragment thereof, either as cDNAs or genomic DNAs, could be isolated directly by using all or a portion of the nucleic acids of the present invention as DNA hybridization probes to screen cDNA or genomic libraries from any desired species employing methodology well known to those skilled in the art. Methods for forming such libraries are well known in the art. Specific oligonucleotide probes based upon the nucleic acids of the present invention can be designed and synthesized by methods known in the art. Moreover, the entire sequences of the nucleic acids can be used directly to synthesize DNA probes by methods known to the skilled artisan such as random primer DNA labeling, nick translation, or end-labeling techniques, or RNA probes using available in vitro transcription systems. In addition, specific primers can be designed and used to amplify a part or all of the sequences. The resulting amplification products can be labeled directly during amplification reactions or labeled after amplification reactions, and used as probes to isolate full length cDNA or genomic DNAs under conditions of appropriate stringency.

Alternatively, the nucleic acids of interest can be amplified from nucleic acid samples using amplification techniques. For instance, the disclosed nucleic acids may be used to define a pair of primers that can be used with the polymerase chain reaction (Mullis, *et al.*, *Cold Spring Harbor Symp. Quant. Biol.* 51:263-273 (1986); Erlich *et al.*, EP 50,424; EP 84,796, EP 258,017, EP 237,362; Mullis, EP 201,184; Mullis *et al.*, US 4,683,202; Erlich, US 4,582,788; and Saiki, R. *et al.*, US 4,683,194) to amplify and obtain any desired nucleic acid or fragment directly from mRNA, from cDNA, from genomic libraries or cDNA libraries. PCR and other in vitro amplification methods may also be useful, for example, to clone nucleic acid sequences that code for proteins to be expressed, to make nucleic acids to use as probes for detecting the presence of the desired mRNA in samples, for nucleic acid sequencing, or for other purposes.

In addition, two short segments of the nucleic acids of the present invention may be used in polymerase chain reaction protocols to amplify longer nucleic acids encoding cotton protein homologues from DNA or RNA. For example, the skilled artisan can follow the RACE protocol (Frohman *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85:8998 (1988)) to generate cDNAs by using PCR to amplify copies of the region

between a single point in the transcript and the 3' or 5' end. Primers oriented in the 3' and 5' directions can be designed from the nucleic acids of the present invention. Using commercially available 3'RACE or 5'RACE systems (Gibco BRL, Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, Maryland U.S.A.), specific 3' or 5' cDNA fragments can be isolated (Ohara et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 86:5673 (1989); Loh et al., Science 243:217 (1989)). Products generated by the 3' and 5' RACE procedures can be combined to generate full-length cDNAs (Frohman and Martin, Techniques 1: 165 (1989)).

Nucleic acids of interest may also be synthesized, either completely or in part, especially where it is desirable to provide plant-preferred sequences, by well-known techniques as described in the technical literature. See, e.g., Carruthers et al., Cold Spring Harbor Symp. Quant. Biol. 47:411-418 (1982), and Adams et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc. 105:661 (1983). Thus, all or a portion of the nucleic acids of the present invention may be synthesized using codons preferred by a selected host. Species-preferred codons may be determined, for example, from the codons used most frequently in the proteins expressed in a particular host species. Other modifications of the nucleotide sequences may result in mutants having slightly altered activity.

Availability of the nucleotide sequences encoding cotton proteins or fragments thereof facilitates immunological screening of cDNA expression libraries. Synthetic polypeptides representing portions of the amino acid sequences of cotton proteins or fragments thereof may be synthesized. These polypeptides can be used to immunize animals to produce polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies with specificity for polypeptides or proteins comprising the amino acid sequences. These antibodies can be then be used to screen cDNA expression libraries to isolate full-length cDNA clones of interest (Lemer, Adv. Immunol. 36: 1 (1984); Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual; Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press: Cold Spring Harbor, (1989)). It is understood that people skilled in the art are familiar with the standard resource materials which describe specific conditions and procedures for the construction, manipulation and isolation of antibodies (see, for example, Harlow and Lane, In *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (1988)).

Another aspect of the present invention relates to a method for obtaining a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a cotton protein homologue. In a preferred embodiment, the method of the present invention for obtaining a nucleic acid encoding all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence of a cotton protein comprising: (a) probing a cDNA or genomic library with a hybridization probe comprising all or a portion of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1 through SEQ ID NO:17880; (b) identifying a DNA clone that hybridizes with the hybridization probe; (c) isolating the DNA clone identified in step (b); and (d) sequencing the cDNA or genomic fragment that comprises the clone isolated in step (c) wherein the sequenced nucleic acid

molecule encodes all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence of the cotton protein homologue.

In another preferred embodiment, the method of the present invention for obtaining a nucleic acid fragment encoding a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence of a cotton protein homologue comprising: (a) synthesizing a first and a second oligonucleotide primers corresponding to a portion of one of the sequences set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 through SEQ ID NO: 17880; and (b) amplifying a cDNA insert present in a cloning vector using the first and second oligonucleotide primers of step (a) wherein the amplified nucleic acid molecule encodes all or a substantial portion of the amino acid sequence of the cotton protein homologue.

One aspect of the present invention concerns markers that include nucleic acid molecules SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 17880 or complements thereof or fragments of either that can act as markers or other nucleic acid molecules of the present invention that can act as markers. Genetic markers of the present invention include "dominant" or "codominant" markers "Codominant markers" reveal the presence of two or more alleles (two per diploid individual) at a locus. "Dominant markers" reveal the presence of only a single allele per locus. The presence of the dominant marker phenotype (e.g., a band of DNA) is an indication that one allele is present in either the homozygous or heterozygous condition. The absence of the dominant marker phenotype (e.g. absence of a DNA band) is merely evidence that "some other" undefined allele is present. In the case of populations where individuals are predominantly homozygous and loci are predominately dimorphic, dominant and codominant markers can be equally valuable. As populations become more heterozygous and multi-allelic, codominant markers often become more informative of the genotype than dominant markers. Marker molecules can be, for example, capable of detecting polymorphisms such as single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs).

SNPs are single base changes in genomic DNA sequence. They occur at greater frequency and are spaced with a greater uniformity throughout a genome than other reported forms of polymorphism.

The greater frequency and uniformity of SNPs means that there is greater probability that such a polymorphism will be found near or in a genetic locus of interest than would be the case for other polymorphisms. SNPs are located in protein-coding regions and noncoding regions of a genome. Some of these SNPs may result in defective or variant protein expression (e.g., as a results of mutations or defective splicing). Analysis (genotyping) of characterized SNPs can require only a plus/minus assay rather than a lengthy measurement, permitting easier automation.

SNPs can be characterized using any of a variety of methods. Such methods include the direct or indirect sequencing of the site, the use of restriction enzymes (Botstein *et al.*, *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 32:314-331 (1980); Konieczny and Ausubel, *Plant J.* 4:403-410 (1993); both of which are herein incorporated by

reference in their entirety), enzymatic and chemical mismatch assays (Myers *et al.*, *Nature* 313:495-498 (1985), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), allele-specific PCR (Newton *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res.* 17:2503-2516 (1989); Wu *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 86:2757-2760 (1989); both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety), ligase chain reaction (Barany, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 88:189-193 (1991), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), single-strand conformation polymorphism analysis (Labruno *et al.*, *Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 48: 1115-1120 (1991), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), primer-directed nucleotide incorporation assays (Kuppuswami *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 88:1143-1147 (1991), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), dideoxy fingerprinting (Sarkar *et al.*, *Genomics* 13:441-443 (1992), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), solid-phase ELISA-based oligonucleotide ligation assays (Nikiforov *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res.* 22:4167-4175 (1994), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), oligonucleotide fluorescence-quenching assays (Livak *et al.*, *PCR Methods Appl.* 4:357-362 (1995), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), 5'-nuclease allele-specific hybridization TaqMan assay (Livak *et al.*, *Nature Genet.* 9:341-342 (1995), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), template-directed dye-terminator incorporation (TDI) assay (Chen and Kwok, *Nucl. Acids Res.* 25:347-353 (1997), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), allele-specific molecular beacon assay (Tyagi *et al.*, *Nature Biotech.* 16: 49-53 (1998), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), PinPoint assay (Haff and Smirnov, *Genome Res.* 7: 378-388 (1997), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety) and dCAPS analysis (Neff *et al.*, *Plant J.* 14:387-392 (1998), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

Additional markers, such as AFLP markers, RFLP markers and RAPD markers, can be utilized (Walton, *Seed World* 22-29 (July, 1993); Burow and Blake, *Molecular Dissection of Complex Traits*, 13-29, Paterson (ed.), CRC Press, New York (1988); both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). DNA markers can be developed from nucleic acid molecules using restriction endonucleases, the PCR and/or DNA sequence information. RFLP markers result from single base changes or insertions/deletions. These codominant markers are highly abundant in plant genomes, have a medium level of polymorphism and are developed by a combination of restriction endonuclease digestion and Southern blotting hybridization. CAPS are similarly developed from restriction nuclease digestion but only of specific PCR products. These markers are also codominant, have a medium level of polymorphism and are highly abundant in the genome. The CAPS result from single base changes and insertions/deletions.

Another marker type, RAPDs, are developed from DNA amplification with random primers and result from single base changes and insertions/deletions in plant genomes. They are dominant markers with a medium level of polymorphisms and are highly abundant. AFLP markers require using the PCR

on a subset of restriction fragments from extended adapter primers. These markers are both dominant and codominant are highly abundant in genomes and exhibit a medium level of polymorphism.

SSRs require DNA sequence information. These codominant markers result from repeat length changes, are highly polymorphic and do not exhibit as high a degree of abundance in the genome as CAPS, AFLPs and RAPDs, SNPs also require DNA sequence information. These codominant markers result from single base substitutions. They are highly abundant and exhibit a medium of polymorphism (Rafalski *et al.*, In: *Nonmammalian Genomic Analysis*, Birren and Lai (ed.), Academic Press, San Diego, CA, pp. 75-134 (1996), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). It is understood that a nucleic acid molecule of the present invention may be used as a marker.

A PCR probe is a nucleic acid molecule capable of initiating a polymerase activity while in a double-stranded structure with another nucleic acid. Various methods for determining the structure of PCR probes and PCR techniques exist in the art. Computer generated searches using programs such as Primer3 (www-genome.wi.mit.edu/cgi-bin/primer/primer3.cgi), STSPipeline (www-genome.wi.mit.edu/cgi-bin/www-STSPipeline), or GeneUp (Pesole *et al.*, *BioTechniques* 25:112-123 (1998) the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), for example, can be used to identify potential PCR primers.

It is understood that a fragment of one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be a probe and specifically a PCR probe.

(b) Protein and Peptide Molecules

A class of agents comprises one or more of the substantially purified protein or peptide molecules encoded by SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO:17880 or one or more of the protein or fragment thereof or peptide molecules encoded by other nucleic acid agents of the present invention. Protein and peptide molecules can be identified using known protein or peptide molecules as a target sequence or target motif in the BLAST programs of the present invention.

The term "substantially purified protein or peptide molecule", as used herein, refers to a protein or peptide molecule separated from substantially all other molecules normally associated with it in its native state. More preferably a substantially purified molecule is the predominant species present in a preparation. A substantially purified molecule may be greater than 60% free, preferably 75% free, more preferably 90% free, and most preferably 95% free from the other molecules (exclusive of solvent) present in the natural mixture.

The term "polypeptide", "peptide", or "protein", as used herein, refers to a polymer composed of amino acids connected by peptide bonds. The term applies to any amino acid polymers in which one or

more amino acid residue is an artificial chemical analogue of a corresponding naturally occurring amino acid, as well as to any naturally occurring amino acid polymers. The essential nature of such analogues of naturally occurring amino acids is that, when incorporated into a protein, that protein is specifically reactive to antibodies elicited to the same protein but consisting entirely of naturally occurring amino acids. It is well known in the art that proteins or polypeptides may undergo modification, including but not limited to, disulfide bond formation, gamma-carboxylation of glutamic acid residues, glycosylation, lipid attachment, phosphorylation, oligomerization, hydroxylation and ADP-ribosylation. Exemplary modifications are described in most basic texts, such as, for example, *Proteins - Structure and Molecular Properties*, 2nd ed., T. E. Creighton, W. H. Freeman and Company, New York (1993). Many detailed reviews are available on this subject, such as, for example, those provided by Wold, F., *Post-translational Protein Modifications. Perspectives and Prospects*, pp. 1-12 in *Post-translational Covalent Modification of Proteins*, B. C. Johnson, Ed., Academic Press, New York (1983); Seifter *et al.*, *Meth. Enzymol.* 182:626-M (1990) and Rattan *et al.*, *Protein Synthesis: Post-translational Modifications and Aging*, *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* 663:48-62 (1992). Modifications can occur anywhere in a polypeptide, including the peptide backbone, the amino acid side-chains and the amino or carboxyl termini. In fact, blockage of the amino or carboxyl group in a polypeptide, or both, by a covalent modification, is common in naturally occurring and synthetic polypeptides and such modifications may be present in polypeptides of the present invention, as well. For instance, the amino terminal residue of polypeptides made in *E coli* or other cells, prior to proteolytic processing, almost invariably will be N-formylmethionine. During post-translational modification of the polypeptide, a methionine residue at the NH₂ terminus may be deleted. Accordingly, this invention contemplates the use of both the methionine-containing and the methionine-less amino terminal variants of the protein of the invention. Thus, as used herein, the term "protein" or "polypeptide" includes any protein or polypeptide that is modified by any biological or non-biological process. The terms "amino acid" and "amino acids" refer to all naturally occurring amino acids and, unless otherwise limited, known analogs of natural amino acids that can function in a similar manner as naturally occurring amino acids. This definition is meant to include norleucine, ornithine, homocysteine, and homoserine.

One or more of the protein or fragment of peptide molecules may be produced via chemical synthesis, or more preferably, by expression in a suitable bacterial or eukaryotic host. Suitable methods for expression are described by Sambrook, *et al.*, (In: *Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, 2nd Edition*, Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (1989)), or similar texts.

A "protein fragment" is a peptide or polypeptide molecule whose amino acid sequence comprises a subset of the amino acid sequence of that protein. A protein or fragment thereof that comprises one or

more additional peptide regions not derived from that protein is a "fusion" protein. Such molecules may be derivatized to contain carbohydrate or other moieties (such as keyhole limpet hemocyanin, etc.). Fusion protein or peptide molecule of the present invention are preferably produced via recombinant means.

5 Another class of agents comprise protein or peptide molecules encoded by SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO:17880 or complements thereof or, fragments or fusions thereof in which non-essential, or not relevant, amino acid residues have been added, replaced, or deleted. An example of such a homologue is the homologue protein of all non- cotton plant species, including but not limited to alfalfa, *Arabidopsis*, barley, *Brassica*, broccoli, cabbage, citrus, garlic, maize, oat, oilseed rape, onion, 10 canola, flax, an ornamental plant, pea, peanut, pepper, potato, rice, rye, sorghum, soybean, strawberry, sugarcane, sugarbeet, tomato, wheat, poplar, pine, fir, eukalyptus, apple, lettuce, peas, lentils, grape, banana, tea, turf grasses, etc. Particularly preferred non-cotton plants to utilize for the isolation of homologues would include alfalfa, *Arabidopsis*, barley, oat, oilseed rape, rice, canola, maize, 15 ornamentals, soybean, sorghum, sugarcane, sugarbeet, tomato, potato, wheat, and turf grasses. Such a homologue can be obtained by any of a variety of methods. Most preferably, as indicated above, one or more of the disclosed sequences (SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO:17880 or complements thereof) will be used to define a pair of primers that may be used to isolate the homologue-encoding nucleic acid molecules from any desired species. Such molecules can be expressed to yield homologues by recombinant means.

(c) Antibodies

One aspect of the present invention concerns antibodies, single-chain antigen binding molecules, or other proteins that specifically bind to one or more of the protein or peptide molecules of the present invention and their homologues, fusions or fragments. Such antibodies may be used to quantitatively or 25 qualitatively detect the protein or peptide molecules of the present invention. As used herein, an antibody or peptide is said to "specifically bind" to a protein or peptide molecule of the present invention if such binding is not competitively inhibited by the presence of non-related molecules.

Nucleic acid molecules that encode all or part of the protein of the present invention can be expressed, via recombinant means, to yield protein or peptides that can in turn be used to elicit antibodies 30 that are capable of binding the expressed protein or peptide. Such antibodies may be used in immunoassays for that protein. Such protein-encoding molecules, or their fragments may be a "fusion" molecule (i.e., a part of a larger nucleic acid molecule) such that, upon expression, a fusion protein is

produced. It is understood that any of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be expressed, via recombinant means, to yield proteins or peptides encoded by these nucleic acid molecules.

The antibodies that specifically bind proteins and protein fragments of the present invention may be polyclonal or monoclonal, and may comprise intact immunoglobulins, or antigen binding portions of immunoglobulins (such as (F(ab)', F(ab')₂) fragments, or single-chain immunoglobulins producible, for example, via recombinant means). It is understood that practitioners are familiar with the standard resource materials which describe specific conditions and procedures for the construction, manipulation and isolation of antibodies (see, for example, Harlow and Lane, In *Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Murine monoclonal antibodies are particularly preferred. BALB/c mice are preferred for this purpose, however, equivalent strains may also be used. The animals are preferably immunized with approximately 25 µg of purified protein (or fragment thereof) that has been emulsified a suitable adjuvant (such as TiterMax adjuvant (Vaxcel, Norcross, GA)). Immunization is preferably conducted at two intramuscular sites, one intraperitoneal site, and one subcutaneous site at the base of the tail. An additional i.v. injection of approximately 25 µg of antigen is preferably given in normal saline three weeks later. After approximately 11 days following the second injection, the mice may be bled and the blood screened for the presence of anti-protein or peptide antibodies. Preferably, a direct binding Enzyme-Linked Immunoassay (ELISA) is employed for this purpose.

More preferably, the mouse having the highest antibody titer is given a third i.v. injection of approximately 25 µg of the same protein or fragment. The splenic leukocytes from this animal may be recovered 3 days later, and are then permitted to fuse, most preferably, using polyethylene glycol, with cells of a suitable myeloma cell line (such as, for example, the P3X63Ag8.653 myeloma cell line). Hybridoma cells are selected by culturing the cells under "HAT" (hypoxanthine-aminopterin-thymine) selection for about one week. The resulting clones may then be screened for their capacity to produce monoclonal antibodies ("mAbs), preferably by direct ELISA.

In one embodiment, anti-protein or peptide monoclonal antibodies are isolated using a fusion of a protein, protein fragment, or peptide of the present invention, or conjugate of a protein, protein fragment, or peptide of the present invention, as immunogens. Thus, for example, a group of mice can be immunized using a fusion protein emulsified in Freund's complete adjuvant (e.g. approximately 50 µg of antigen per immunization). At three week intervals, an identical amount of antigen is emulsified in Freund's incomplete adjuvant and used to immunize the animals. Ten days following the third immunization, serum samples are taken and evaluated for the presence of antibody. If antibody titers are

too low, a fourth booster can be employed. Polysera capable of binding the protein or peptide can also be obtained using this method.

In a preferred procedure for obtaining monoclonal antibodies, the spleens of the above-described immunized mice are removed, disrupted, and immune splenocytes are isolated over a ficoll gradient. The isolated splenocytes are fused, using polyethylene glycol with BALB/c-derived HGPRT (hypoxanthine guanine phosphoribosyl transferase) deficient P3x63xAg8.653 plasmacytoma cells. The fused cells are plated into 96-well microtiter plates and screened for hybridoma fusion cells by their capacity to grow in culture medium supplemented with hypoxanthine, aminopterin and thymidine for approximately 2-3 weeks.

Hybridoma cells that arise from such incubation are preferably screened for their capacity to produce an immunoglobulin that binds to a protein of interest. An indirect ELISA may be used for this purpose. In brief, the supernatants of hybridomas are incubated in microtiter wells that contain immobilized protein. After washing, the titer of bound immunoglobulin can be determined using, for example, a goat anti-mouse antibody conjugated to horseradish peroxidase. After additional washing, the amount of immobilized enzyme is determined (for example through the use of a chromogenic substrate). Such screening is performed as quickly as possible after the identification of the hybridoma in order to ensure that a desired clone is not overgrown by non-secreting neighbors. Desirably, the fusion plates are screened several times since the rates of hybridoma growth vary. In a preferred sub-embodiment, a different antigenic form of immunogen may be used to screen the hybridoma. Thus, for example, the splenocytes may be immunized with one immunogen, but the resulting hybridomas can be screened using a different immunogen. It is understood that any of the protein or peptide molecules of the present invention may be used to raise antibodies.

As discussed below, such antibody molecules or their fragments may be used for diagnostic purposes. Where the antibodies are intended for diagnostic purposes, it may be desirable to derivatize them, for example with a ligand group (such as biotin) or a detectable marker group (such as a fluorescent group, a radioisotope or an enzyme).

The ability to produce antibodies that bind the protein or peptide molecules of the present invention permits the identification of mimetic compounds of those molecules. A "mimetic compound" is a compound that is not that compound, or a fragment of that compound, but which nonetheless exhibits an ability to specifically bind to antibodies directed against that compound.

It is understood that any of the agents of the present invention can be substantially purified and/or be biologically active and/or recombinant.

Uses of the Agents of the Invention

The nucleic acid molecules and fragments thereof of the present invention from the cDNA libraries LIB3825 and LIB3826 are isolated from cotton primed and non-primed seeds which are hydrated at 25°C for about 2.5 hours. The ESTs of the present invention can enable the acquisition of, including but not limited to, genes involved in seed germination, seedling development, and regulation of growth and development. Therefore, the ESTs of the present invention will find great use in the isolation of a variety of agronomically significant genes, including but not limited to, genes that regulate the synthesis and activity of proteins, amino acids, sterols, oils, minerals, isoflavones, saponins, trypsin inhibitors, vitamins, tocopherols, antinutrient components, carbohydrates, and starch metabolism. Such genes are associated with plant growth, quality, yield, and could also serve as links in metabolic and catabolic pathways. The ESTs of the present invention will also find great use in the identification of genes important in initiating and maintaining seed germination, including but not limited to, genes encoding transcription factors and components of signal transduction including receptors and ion transporters and channels. The ESTs of the present invention will also further find great use in the identification of genes that may be used to mitigate stresses encountered during seed germination, including but not limited to, genes that encode heat shock factors, cold-induced proteins, and proteins required for anaerobic respiration and desiccation tolerance, and genes that regulate the synthesis and activity of those proteins. The ESTs of the present invention can also enable the acquisition of promoters and cis-regulatory elements which will be useful to express agronomically significant genes in these tissues and/or other tissues. The ESTs of the present invention can also enable the acquisition of molecular markers, which can be used in, including but not limited to, breeding schemes, genetic and molecular mapping, and cloning of agronomically significant genes.

The nucleic acid molecules and fragments thereof of the present invention from the cDNA library LIB3827 are isolated from cotton seeds. Seed libraries can enable acquisition of, including but not limited to, genes that store food and seed regulatory elements, therefore, the ESTs of the present invention will find great use in the isolation of a variety of agronomically significant genes, including but not limited to genes that regulate protein, amino acids, sterols, oils, minerals, isoflavones, saponins, trypsin inhibitors, vitamins, tocopherols, antinutrient components, carbohydrates, starch metabolism and seed regulatory elements. Such crucial genes are associated with plant growth, yield and fiber quality, and could also serve as links in important metabolic and catabolic pathways. The ESTs of the present invention also can enable the acquisition of promoters and cis-regulatory elements which will be useful to express agronomically significant genes in these tissues and/or other tissues. The ESTs of the present invention also can enable the acquisition of molecular markers, which can be used in, including but not

limited to, breeding schemes, genetic and molecular mapping, and cloning of agronomically significant genes.

The nucleic acid molecules and fragments thereof of the present invention from the cDNA library LIB3828 are isolated from cotton male reproductive tissue (androecium) from 1/3 grown squares (~0.4 cm floral buds). The ESTs of the present invention can enable the acquisition of, including but not limited to, genes involved in floral and square development, reproduction, male gamete production and development, pollination, seed production, fiber production and development, and boll development therefore, the ESTs of the present invention will find great use in the isolation of a variety of agronomically significant genes, including but not limited to, non-regulatory genes and genes that regulate microsporogenesis, meiosis, cell cycle, signal transduction, cell-cell communication, carotenoids, floral biogenesis, fibers, proteins, amino acids, sterols, oils, minerals, isoflavones, saponins, vitamins, tocopherols, antinutrient components, carbohydrates, starch metabolism, and seed composition and function. Such genes are associated with plant growth, yield and fiber quality, and could also serve as links in important developmental, metabolic, and catabolic pathways. Libraries from this tissue can enable the acquisition of a variety of agronomically significant genes involved in the synthesis and catabolism of commercially important traits. The ESTs of the present invention also can enable the acquisition of promoters and cis-regulatory elements which will be useful to express agronomically significant genes in these tissues and/or other tissues. The ESTs of the present invention also can enable the acquisition of molecular markers, which can be used in, including but not limited to, breeding schemes, genetic and molecular mapping, and cloning of agronomically significant genes.

The nucleic acid molecules and fragments of the present invention from the cDNA library LIB3829 are isolated from cotton floral reproductive tissue (gynoecium). Libraries from this tissue can enable acquisition of, including but not limited to, genes that are involved in reproduction, female production and development (ovary/ovule development), and pathogen resistance or susceptibility; therefore, the ESTs of the present invention will find great use in the isolation of a variety of agronomically significant genes, including but not limited to, non-regulatory genes and genes that regulate megasporogenesis, meiosis, cell cycle, signal transduction, cell-cell communication, carotenoids, floral biogenesis, embryogenesis, protein, amino acids, sterols, oils, minerals, isoflavones, saponins, vitamins, tocopherols, antinutrient components, carbohydrates, starch metabolism and seed composition and function. Such genes are associated with plant growth, quality, yield, and could also serve as links in important developmental, metabolic, and catabolic pathways. Libraries from this tissue can enable the acquisition of a variety of agronomically significant genes involved in the synthesis and catabolism of commercially important traits. The ESTs of the present invention also can enable the acquisition of

promoters and cis-regulatory elements which will be useful to express agronomically significant genes in these tissues and/or other tissues. The ESTs of the present invention also can enable the acquisition of molecular markers, which can be used in, including but not limited to, breeding schemes, genetic and molecular mapping, and cloning of agronomically significant genes.

5 The nucleic acid molecules and fragments thereof of the present invention from the cDNA library LIB3830 are isolated from developing fibers from 23-28 dpa (days post anthesis) bolls, which are harvested from cotton plants. The ESTs of the present invention can enable the acquisition of genes expressed in epidermal cells of seed coats and those expressed during the process of cell elongation. The ESTs of the present invention will find great use in the isolation of a variety of agronomically significant genes, including but not limited to, genes that regulate receptors, signal transducers, transcription factors, translation factors, cellulose, enzymes, and structural proteins, and genes that regulate cell cycle, signal transduction, cell-cell communication, carotenoids, fibers, proteins, amino acids, sterols, isoflavones, carbohydrates, and starch metabolism. Such genes are associated with fiber quality and yield. Libraries from this tissue can enable the acquisition of a variety of agronomically significant genes involved in the synthesis and catabolism of commercially important traits. The ESTs of the present invention also can enable the acquisition of promoters and cis-regulatory elements which will be useful to express agronomically significant genes in these tissues and/or other tissues. The ESTs of the present invention also can enable the acquisition of molecular markers, which can be used in, including but not limited to, breeding schemes, genetic and molecular mapping, and cloning of agronomically significant genes.

15 20 The nucleic acid molecules and fragments thereof of the present invention from the cDNA library LIB3831 are isolated from carpel walls and septa collected from 1-10 dpa (days post anthesis) bolls from cotton plants. The ESTs of the present invention can enable the acquisition of, including but not limited to, genes involved in floral and square development, reproduction, female production and development (ovary/ovule development, stigma development and style development), pollen production and development, seed production, fiber production and development, boll development, therefore, the ESTs of the present invention will find great use in the isolation of a variety of agronomically significant genes, including but not limited to, non-regulatory genes and genes that regulate microsporogenesis, meiosis, cell cycle, signal transduction, cell-cell communication, carotenoids, floral biogenesis, embryogenesis, fibers, proteins, amino acids, sterols, oils, minerals, isoflavones, saponins, vitamins, tocopherols, antinutrient components, carbohydrates, starch metabolism, and seed composition and function. Such genes are associated with plant growth, yield and fiber quality, and could also serve as links in important developmental, metabolic, and catabolic pathways. Libraries from this tissue can enable the acquisition of a variety of agronomically significant genes involved in the synthesis and

catabolism of commercially important traits. The ESTs of the present invention also can enable the acquisition of promoters and cis-regulatory elements which will be useful to express agronomically significant genes in these tissues and/or other tissues. The ESTs of the present invention also can enable the acquisition of molecular markers, which can be used in, including but not limited to, breeding schemes, genetic and molecular mapping, and cloning of agronomically significant genes.

Nucleic acid molecules and fragments thereof of the present invention may be employed to obtain other nucleic acid molecules. Such molecules include the nucleic acid molecules of other plants or other organisms (*e.g.*, alfalfa, rice, potato, cotton, oat, rye, barley, maize, soybean, wheat, *Arabidopsis*, *Brassica*, etc.) including the nucleic acid molecules that encode, in whole or in part, protein homologues of other plant species or other organisms, and sequences of genetic elements such as promoters and transcriptional regulatory elements. Such molecules can be readily obtained by using the above-described nucleic acid molecules or fragments thereof to screen cDNA or genomic libraries obtained from such plant species. Methods for forming such libraries are well known in the art. Such homologue molecules may differ in their nucleotide sequences from those found in one or more of SEQ ID NO:1 through SEQ ID NO:17880 or complements thereof because complete complementarity is not needed for stable hybridization. The nucleic acid molecules of the present invention therefore also include molecules that, although capable of specifically hybridizing with the nucleic acid molecules may lack "complete complementarity."

Any of a variety of methods may be used to obtain one or more of the above-described nucleic acid molecules (Zamechik *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 83:4143-4146 (1986); Goodchild *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 85:5507-5511 (1988); Wickstrom *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 85:1028-1032 (1988); Holt, *et al.*, *Molec. Cell. Biol.* 8:963-973 (1988); Gerwitz, *et al.*, *Science* 242:1303-1306 (1988); Anfossi, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 86:3379-3383 (1989); Becker, *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 8:3685-3691 (1989); all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

Automated nucleic acid synthesizers may be employed for this purpose. In lieu of such synthesis, the disclosed nucleic acid molecules may be used to define a pair of primers that can be used with the polymerase chain reaction (Mullis, *et al.*, *Cold Spring Harbor Symp. Quant. Biol.* 51:263-273 (1986); Erlich *et al.*, EP 50,424; EP 84,796, EP 258,017, EP 237,362; Mullis, EP 201,184; Mullis *et al.*, US 4,683,202; Erlich, US 4,582,788; and Saiki, R. *et al.*, US 4,683,194, all of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety) to amplify and obtain any desired nucleic acid molecule or fragment.

Promoter sequence(s) and other genetic elements including but not limited to transcriptional regulatory elements associated with one or more of the disclosed nucleic acid sequences can also be obtained using the disclosed nucleic acid sequences provided herein.

In one embodiment, such sequences are obtained by incubating EST nucleic acid molecules or preferably fragments thereof with members of genomic libraries (*e.g.* cotton, maize and soybean) and recovering clones that hybridize to the EST nucleic acid molecule or fragment thereof. In a second embodiment, methods of "chromosome walking," or inverse PCR may be used to obtain such sequences (Frohman, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 85:8998-9002 (1988); Ohara, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 86: 5673-5677 (1989); Pang *et al.*, *Biotechniques*, 22(6): 1046-1048 (1977); Huang *et al.*, *Methods Mol. Biol.* 69: 89-96 (1977); Hartl *et al.*, *Methods Mol. Biol.* 58: 293-301 (1996), all of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety). In one embodiment, the disclosed nucleic acid molecules are used to identify cDNAs whose analogous genes contain promoters with desirable expression patterns. The nucleic acid molecules isolated from the library of the present invention are used to isolate promoters of tissue-enhanced, tissue-specific, developmentally- or environmentally-regulated expression profiles. Isolation and functional analysis of the 5' flanking promoter sequences of these genes from genomic libraries, for example, using genomic screening methods and PCR techniques would result in the isolation of useful promoters and transcriptional regulatory elements. These methods are known to those of skill in the art and have been described (See for example Birren *et al.*, *Genome Analysis: Analyzing DNA*, 1, (1997), Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Promoters obtained utilizing the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention could also be modified to affect their control characteristics. Examples of such modifications would include but are not limited to enhancer sequences as reported by Kay *et al.*, *Science* 236:1299 (1987), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety. Such genetic elements could be used to enhance gene expression of new and existing traits for crop improvements.

The nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be used to isolate promoters of tissue-enhanced, tissue-specific, cell-specific, cell -type, developmentally or environmentally regulated expression profiles. Isolation and functional analysis of the 5' flanking promoter sequences of these genes from genomic libraries, for example, using genomic screening methods and PCR techniques would result in the isolation of useful promoters and transcriptional regulatory elements. These methods are known to those of skill in the art and have been described (See, for example, Birren *et. al.*, *Genome Analysis: Analyzing DNA*, 1, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. (1997), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). Promoters obtained utilizing the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention could also be modified to affect their control characteristics. Examples of such modifications would include but are not limited to enhancer sequences as reported by Kay, *et al Science*

236:1299 (1987), herein incorporated reference in its entirety. Such genetic elements could be used to enhance gene expression of new and existing traits for crop improvements.

In an aspect of the present invention, one or more of the nucleic molecules of the present invention are used to determine whether a plant (preferably cotton) has a mutation affecting the level (i.e., the concentration of mRNA in a sample, etc.) or pattern (i.e., the kinetics of expression, rate of decomposition, stability profile, etc.) of the expression encoded in part or whole by one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention (collectively, the "Expression Response" of a cell or tissue). As used herein, the Expression Response manifested by a cell or tissue is said to be "altered" if it differs from the Expression Response of cells or tissues of plants not exhibiting the phenotype. To determine whether a Expression Response is altered, the Expression Response manifested by the cell or tissue of the plant exhibiting the phenotype is compared with that of a similar cell or tissue sample of a plant not exhibiting the phenotype. As will be appreciated, it is not necessary to re-determine the Expression Response of the cell or tissue sample of plants not exhibiting the phenotype each time such a comparison is made; rather, the Expression Response of a particular plant may be compared with previously obtained values of normal plants. As used herein, the phenotype of the organism is any of one or more characteristics of an organism (e.g. disease resistance, pest tolerance, environmental tolerance, male sterility, yield, quality improvements, etc.). A change in genotype or phenotype may be transient or permanent. Also as used herein, a tissue sample is any sample that comprises more than one cell. In a preferred aspect, a tissue sample comprises cells that share a common characteristic (e.g. derived from leaf, root, or pollen etc).

In one sub-aspect, such an analysis is conducted by determining the presence and/or identity of polymorphism(s) by one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention and more specifically, one or more of the EST nucleic acid molecules or fragments thereof which are associated with phenotype, or a predisposition to phenotype.

Any of a variety of molecules can be used to identify such polymorphism(s). In one embodiment, one or more of the EST nucleic acid molecules (or a sub-fragment thereof) may be employed as a marker nucleic acid molecule to identify such polymorphism(s). Alternatively, such polymorphisms can be detected through the use of a marker nucleic acid molecule or a marker protein that is genetically linked to (i.e., a polynucleotide that co-segregates with) such polymorphism(s).

In an alternative embodiment, such polymorphisms can be detected through the use of a marker nucleic acid molecule that is physically linked to such polymorphism(s). For this purpose, marker nucleic acid molecules comprising a nucleotide sequence of a polynucleotide located within 1 mb of the

polymorphism(s), and more preferably within 100 kb of the polymorphism(s), and most preferably within 10 kb of the polymorphism(s) can be employed.

The genomes of animals and plants naturally undergo spontaneous mutation in the course of their continuing evolution (Gusella, *Ann. Rev. Biochem.* 55:831-854 (1986)). A "polymorphism" is a variation or difference in the sequence of the gene or its flanking regions that arises in some of the members of a species. The variant sequence and the "original" sequence co-exist in the species' population. In some instances, such co-existence is in stable or quasi-stable equilibrium.

A polymorphism is thus said to be "allelic," in that, due to the existence of the polymorphism, some members of a species may have the original sequence (i.e., the original "allele") whereas other members may have the variant sequence (i.e., the variant "allele"). In the simplest case, only one variant sequence may exist, and the polymorphism is thus said to be di-allelic. In other cases, the species' population may contain multiple alleles, and the polymorphism is termed tri-allelic, etc. A single gene may have multiple different unrelated polymorphisms. For example, it may have a di-allelic polymorphism at one site, and a multi-allelic polymorphism at another site.

The variation that defines the polymorphism may range from a single nucleotide variation to the insertion or deletion of extended regions within a gene. In some cases, the DNA sequence variations are in regions of the genome that are characterized by short tandem repeats (STRs) that include tandem di- or tri-nucleotide repeated motifs of nucleotides. Polymorphisms characterized by such tandem repeats are referred to as "variable number tandem repeat" ("VNTR") polymorphisms. VNTRs have been used in identity analysis (Weber, U.S. Patent 5,075,217; Armour, *et al.*, *FEBS Lett.* 307:113-115 (1992); Jones, *et al.*, *Eur. J. Haematol.* 39:144-147 (1987); Horn, *et al.*, PCT Application WO91/14003; Jeffreys, European Patent Application 370,719; Jeffreys, U.S. Patent 5,699,082; Jeffreys, *et al.*, *Amer. J. Hum. Genet.* 39:11-24 (1986); Jeffreys, *et al.*, *Nature* 316:76-79 (1985); Gray, *et al.*, *Proc. R. Acad. Soc. Lond.* 243:241-253 (1991); Moore, *et al.*, *Genomics* 10:654-660 (1991); Jeffreys, *et al.*, *Anim. Genet.* 18:1-15 (1987); Hillel, *et al.*, *Anim. Genet.* 20:145-155 (1989); Hillel, *et al.*, *Genet.* 124:783-789 (1990), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety.

The detection of polymorphic sites in a sample of DNA may be facilitated through the use of nucleic acid amplification methods. Such methods specifically increase the concentration of polynucleotides that span the polymorphic site, or include that site and sequences located either distal or proximal to it. Such amplified molecules can be readily detected by gel electrophoresis or other means.

The most preferred method of achieving such amplification employs the polymerase chain reaction ("PCR") (Mullis, *et al.*, *Cold Spring Harbor Symp. Quant. Biol.* 51:263-273 (1986); Erlich, *et al.*, European Patent Appln. 50,424; European Patent Appln. 84,796, European Patent Application

258,017, European Patent Appln. 237,362; Mullis, European Patent Appln. 201,184; Mullis, *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,683,202; Erlich, U.S. Patent No. 4,582,788; and Saiki, *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,683,194, all of which are herein incorporated by reference), using primer pairs that are capable of hybridizing to the proximal sequences that define a polymorphism in its double-stranded form.

5 In lieu of PCR, alternative methods, such as the "Ligase Chain Reaction" ("LCR") may be used (Barany, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 88:189-193 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). LCR uses two pairs of oligonucleotide probes to exponentially amplify a specific target. The sequences of each pair of oligonucleotides is selected to permit the pair to hybridize to abutting sequences of the same strand of the target. Such hybridization forms a substrate for a template-
10 dependent ligase. As with PCR, the resulting products thus serve as a template in subsequent cycles and an exponential amplification of the desired sequence is obtained.

LCR can be performed with oligonucleotides having the proximal and distal sequences of the same strand of a polymorphic site. In one embodiment, either oligonucleotide will be designed to include the actual polymorphic site of the polymorphism. In such an embodiment, the reaction conditions are selected such that the oligonucleotides can be ligated together only if the target molecule either contains or lacks the specific nucleotide that is complementary to the polymorphic site present on the oligonucleotide. Alternatively, the oligonucleotides may be selected such that they do not include the polymorphic site (see, Segev, PCT Application WO 90/01069, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

20 The "Oligonucleotide Ligation Assay" ("OLA") may alternatively be employed (Landegren, *et al.*, *Science* 241:1077-1080 (1988), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). The OLA protocol uses two oligonucleotides which are designed to be capable of hybridizing to abutting sequences of a single strand of a target. OLA, like LCR, is particularly suited for the detection of point mutations. Unlike LCR, however, OLA results in "linear" rather than exponential amplification of the target
25 sequence.

Nickerson, *et al.* have described a nucleic acid detection assay that combines attributes of PCR and OLA (Nickerson, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 87:8923-8927 (1990), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). In this method, PCR is used to achieve the exponential amplification of target DNA, which is then detected using OLA. In addition to requiring multiple, and separate,
30 processing steps, one problem associated with such combinations is that they inherit all of the problems associated with PCR and OLA.

Schemes based on ligation of two (or more) oligonucleotides in the presence of nucleic acid having the sequence of the resulting "di-oligonucleotide", thereby amplifying the di-oligonucleotide, are

also known (Wu, *et al.*, *Genomics* 4:560 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), and may be readily adapted to the purposes of the present invention.

Other known nucleic acid amplification procedures, such as allele-specific oligomers, branched DNA technology, transcription-based amplification systems, or isothermal amplification methods may also be used to amplify and analyze such polymorphisms (Malek, *et al.*, U.S. Patent 5,130,238; Davey, *et al.*, European Patent Application 329,822; Schuster *et al.*, U.S. Patent 5,169,766; Miller, *et al.*, PCT Application WO 89/06700; Kwoh, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 86:1173-1177 (1989); Gingeras, *et al.*, PCT Application WO 88/10315; Walker, *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 89:392-396 (1992), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

The identification of a polymorphism can be determined in a variety of ways. By correlating the presence or absence of it in a plant with the presence or absence of a phenotype, it is possible to predict the phenotype of that plant. If a polymorphism creates or destroys a restriction endonuclease cleavage site, or if it results in the loss or insertion of DNA (e.g., a VNTR polymorphism), it will alter the size or profile of the DNA fragments that are generated by digestion with that restriction endonuclease. As such, individuals that possess a variant sequence can be distinguished from those having the original sequence by restriction fragment analysis. Polymorphisms that can be identified in this manner are termed "restriction fragment length polymorphisms" ("RFLPs"). RFLPs have been widely used in human and plant genetic analyses (Glassberg, UK Patent Application 2135774; Skolnick, *et al.*, *Cytogen. Cell Genet.* 32:58-67 (1982); Botstein, *et al.*, *Ann. J. Hum. Genet.* 32:314-331 (1980); Fischer, *et al.* (PCT Application WO90/13668); Uhlen, PCT Application WO90/11369).

Polymorphisms can also be identified by Single Strand Conformation Polymorphism (SSCP) analysis. The SSCP technique is a method capable of identifying most sequence variations in a single strand of DNA, typically between 150 and 250 nucleotides in length (Elles, *Methods in Molecular Medicine: Molecular Diagnosis of Genetic Diseases*, Humana Press (1996); Orita *et al.*, *Genomics* 5: 874-879 (1989); both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). Under denaturing conditions a single strand of DNA will adopt a conformation that is uniquely dependent on its sequence conformation. This conformation usually will be different, even if only a single base is changed. Most conformations have been reported to alter the physical configuration or size sufficiently to be detectable by electrophoresis. A number of protocols have been described for SSCP including, but not limited to Lee *et al.*, *Anal. Biochem.* 205: 289-293 (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Suzuki *et al.*, *Anal. Biochem.* 192: 82-84 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Lo *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Research* 20: 1005-1009 (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Sarkar *et al.*, *Genomics* 13: 441-443 (1992), the entirety of which is herein

incorporated by reference). It is understood that one or more of the nucleic acids of the present invention, may be utilized as markers or probes to detect polymorphisms by SSCP analysis.

Polymorphisms may also be found using a DNA fingerprinting technique called amplified fragment length polymorphism (AFLP), which is based on the selective PCR amplification of restriction fragments from a total digest of genomic DNA to profile that DNA. Vos, *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 23:4407-4414 (1995), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference. This method allows for the specific co-amplification of high numbers of restriction fragments, which can be visualized by PCR without knowledge of the nucleic acid sequence.

AFLP employs basically three steps. Initially, a sample of genomic DNA is cut with restriction enzymes and oligonucleotide adapters are ligated to the restriction fragments of the DNA. The restriction fragments are then amplified using PCR by using the adapter and restriction sequence as target sites for primer annealing. The selective amplification is achieved by the use of primers that extend into the restriction fragments, amplifying only those fragments in which the primer extensions match the nucleotide flanking the restriction sites. These amplified fragments are then visualized on a denaturing polyacrylamide gel.

AFLP analysis has been performed on *Salix* (Beismann, *et al.*, *Mol. Ecol.* 6:989-993 (1997), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety); *Acinetobacter* (Janssen, *et al.*, *Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol.* 47:1179-1187 (1997), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), *Aeromonas popoffi* (Huys, *et al.*, *Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol.* 47:1165-1171 (1997), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), rice (McCouch, *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 35:89-99 (1997); Nandi, *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 255:1-8 (1997); Cho, *et al.*, *Genome* 39:373-378 (1996), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety), barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) (Simons, *et al.*, *Genomics* 44:61-70 (1997); Waugh, *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 255:311-321 (1997); Qi, *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 254:330-336 (1997); Becker, *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 249:65-73 (1995), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety), potato (Van der Voort, *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 255:438-447 (1997); Meksem, *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 249:74-81 (1995), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety), *Phytophthora infestans* (Van der Lee, *et al.*, *Fungal Genet. Biol.* 21:278-291 (1997), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), *Bacillus anthracis* (Keim, *et al.*, *J. Bacteriol.* 179:818-824 (1997), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), *Astragalus cremnophylax* (Travis, *et al.*, *Mol. Ecol.* 5:735-745 (1996), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), *Arabidopsis* (Cnops, *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 253:32-41 (1996), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), *Escherichia coli* (Lin, *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 24:3649-3650 (1996), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), *Aeromonas* (Huys, *et al.*, *Int. J. Syst. Bacteriol.* 46:572-580 (1996), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), nematode (Folkertsma, *et al.*, *Mol.*

Plant Microbe Interact. 9:47-54 (1996), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), tomato (Thomas, *et al.*, *Plant J.* 8:785-794 (1995), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), and human (Latorra, *et al.*, *PCR Methods Appl.* 3:351-358 (1994), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). AFLP analysis has also been used for fingerprinting mRNA (Money, *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 24:2616-2617 (1996); Bachem, *et al.*, *Plant J.* 9:745-753 (1996), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). It is understood that one or more of the nucleic acids of the present invention, may be utilized as markers or probes to detect polymorphisms by AFLP analysis for fingerprinting mRNA.

Polymorphisms may also be found using random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) (Williams *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res.* 18: 6531-6535 (1990), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety) and cleaveable amplified polymorphic sequences (CAPS) (Lyamichev *et al.*, *Science* 260: 778-783 (1993), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). It is understood that one or more of the nucleic acids of the present invention, may be utilized as markers or probes to detect polymorphisms by RAPD or CAPS analysis.

Polymorphisms are useful, through linkage analysis, to define the genetic distances or physical distances between polymorphic traits. A physical map or ordered array of genomic DNA fragments in the desired region containing the gene may be used to characterize and isolate genes corresponding to desirable traits. For this purpose, yeast artificial chromosomes (YACs), bacterial artificial chromosomes (BACs), and cosmids are appropriate vectors for cloning large segments of DNA molecules. Although fewer clones are needed to make a contig for a specific genomic region by using YACs (Agyare *et al.*, *Genome Res.* 7: 1-9 (1997); James *et al.*, *Genomics* 32: 425-430 (1996), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety), chimerism in the inserted DNA fragment can arise. Cosmids are convenient for handling smaller-size DNA molecules and may be used for transformation in developing transgenic plants. BACs also carry DNA fragments and are less prone to chimerism.

Through genetic mapping, a fine scale linkage map can be developed using DNA markers and, then, a genomic DNA library of large-sized fragments can be screened with molecular markers linked to the desired trait. Molecular markers are advantageous for agronomic traits that are otherwise difficult to tag, such as resistance to pathogens, insects and nematodes, tolerance to abiotic stress, quality parameters and quantitative traits such as high yield potential.

The essential requirements for marker-assisted selection in a plant breeding program are: (1) the marker(s) should co-segregate or be closely linked with the desired trait; (2) an efficient means of screening large populations for the molecular marker(s) should be available; and (3) the screening

technique should have high reproducibility across laboratories and preferably be economical to use and be user-friendly.

The genetic linkage of marker molecules can be established by a gene mapping model such as, without limitation, the flanking marker model reported by Lander and Botstein, *Genetics* 121:185-199 (1989) and the interval mapping, based on maximum likelihood methods described by Lander and Botstein, *Genetics* 121:185-199 (1989) and implemented in the software package MAPMAKER/QTL (Lincoln and Lander, *Mapping Genes Controlling Quantitative Traits Using MAPMAKER/QTL*, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Massachusetts, (1990). Additional software includes Qgene, Version 2.23 (1996), Department of Plant Breeding and Biometry, 266 Emerson Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, the manual of which is herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). Use of Qgene software is a particularly preferred approach.

A maximum likelihood estimate (MLE) for the presence of a marker is calculated, together with an MLE assuming no QTL effect, to avoid false positives. A \log_{10} of an odds ratio (LOD) is then calculated as: $\text{LOD} = \log_{10}(\text{MLE for the presence of a QTL} / \text{MLE given no linked QTL})$.

The LOD score essentially indicates how much more likely the data are to have arisen assuming the presence of a QTL than in its absence. The LOD threshold value for avoiding a false positive with a given confidence, say 95%, depends on the number of markers and the length of the genome. Graphs indicating LOD thresholds are set forth in Lander and Botstein, *Genetics* 121:185-199 (1989) the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference and further described by Arús and Moreno-González, *Plant Breeding*, Hayward *et al.*, (eds.) Chapman & Hall, London, pp. 314-331 (1993), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference.

Additional models can be used. Many modifications and alternative approaches to interval mapping have been reported, including the use of non-parametric methods (Kruglyak and Lander, *Genetics* 139:1421-1428 (1995), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Multiple regression methods or models can be also be used, in which the trait is regressed on a large number of markers (Jansen, *Biometrics in Plant Breeding*, van Oijen and Jansen (eds.), Proceedings of the Ninth Meeting of the Eucarpia Section Biometrics in Plant Breeding, The Netherlands, pp. 116-124 (1994); Weber and Wricke, *Advances in Plant Breeding*, Blackwell, Berlin, 16 (1994), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). Procedures combining interval mapping with regression analysis, whereby the phenotype is regressed onto a single putative QTL at a given marker interval and at the same time onto a number of markers that serve as 'cofactors,' have been reported by Jansen and Stam, *Genetics* 136:1447-1455 (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference and Zeng, *Genetics* 136:1457-1468 (1994) the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference. Generally, the

use of cofactors reduces the bias and sampling error of the estimated QTL positions (Utz and Melchinger, *Biometrics in Plant Breeding*, van Oijen and Jansen (eds.) Proceedings of the Ninth Meeting of the Eucarpia Section Biometrics in Plant Breeding, The Netherlands, pp.195-204 (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference, thereby improving the precision and efficiency of QTL mapping (Zeng, *Genetics* 136:1457-1468 (1994)). These models can be extended to multi-environment experiments to analyze genotype-environment interactions (Jansen *et al.*, *Theo. Appl. Genet.* 91:33-37 (1995), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Selection of an appropriate mapping population is important to map construction. The choice of an appropriate mapping population depends on the type of marker systems employed (Tanksley *et al.*, *Molecular mapping plant chromosomes. Chromosome structure and function: Impact of new concepts*, Gustafson and Appels (eds.), Plenum Press, New York, pp 157-173 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Consideration must be given to the source of parents (adapted vs. exotic) used in the mapping population. Chromosome pairing and recombination rates can be severely disturbed (suppressed) in wide crosses (adapted x exotic) and generally yield greatly reduced linkage distances. Wide crosses will usually provide segregating populations with a relatively large array of polymorphisms when compared to progeny in a narrow cross (adapted x adapted).

An F_2 population is the first generation of selfing after the hybrid seed is produced. Usually a single F_1 plant is selfed to generate a population segregating for all the genes in Mendelian (1:2:1) fashion. Maximum genetic information is obtained from a completely classified F_2 population using a codominant marker system (Mather, *Measurement of Linkage in Heredity*, Methuen and Co., (1938), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). In the case of dominant markers, progeny tests (e.g. F_3 , BCF_2) are required to identify the heterozygotes, thus making it equivalent to a completely classified F_2 population. However, this procedure is often prohibitive because of the cost and time involved in progeny testing. Progeny testing of F_2 individuals is often used in map construction where phenotypes do not consistently reflect genotype (e.g. disease resistance) or where trait expression is controlled by a QTL. Segregation data from progeny test populations (e.g. F_3 or BCF_2) can be used in map construction. Marker-assisted selection can then be applied to cross progeny based on marker-trait map associations (F_2 , F_3), where linkage groups have not been completely disassociated by recombination events (i.e., maximum disequilibrium).

Recombinant inbred lines (RIL) (genetically related lines; usually $>F_5$, developed from continuously selfing F_2 lines towards homozygosity) can be used as a mapping population. Information obtained from dominant markers can be maximized by using RIL because all loci are homozygous or nearly so. Under conditions of tight linkage (i.e., about $<10\%$ recombination), dominant and co-

dominant markers evaluated in RIL populations provide more information per individual than either marker type in backcross populations (Reiter *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 89:1477-1481 (1992), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). However, as the distance between markers becomes larger (i.e., loci become more independent), the information in RIL populations decreases dramatically when compared to codominant markers.

Backcross populations (e.g., generated from a cross between a successful variety (recurrent parent) and another variety (donor parent) carrying a trait not present in the former) can be utilized as a mapping population. A series of backcrosses to the recurrent parent can be made to recover most of its desirable traits. Thus a population is created consisting of individuals nearly like the recurrent parent but each individual carries varying amounts or mosaic of genomic regions from the donor parent. Backcross populations can be useful for mapping dominant markers if all loci in the recurrent parent are homozygous and the donor and recurrent parent have contrasting polymorphic marker alleles (Reiter *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 89:1477-1481 (1992)). Information obtained from backcross populations using either codominant or dominant markers is less than that obtained from F₂ populations because one, rather than two, recombinant gametes are sampled per plant. Backcross populations, however, are more informative (at low marker saturation) when compared to RILs as the distance between linked loci increases in RIL populations (i.e. about 15% recombination). Increased recombination can be beneficial for resolution of tight linkages, but may be undesirable in the construction of maps with low marker saturation.

Near-isogenic lines (NIL) created by many backcrosses to produce an array of individuals that are nearly identical in genetic composition except for the trait or genomic region under interrogation can be used as a mapping population. In mapping with NILs, only a portion of the polymorphic loci are expected to map to a selected region.

Bulk segregant analysis (BSA) is a method developed for the rapid identification of linkage between markers and traits of interest (Michelmore *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 88:9828-9832 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). In BSA, two bulked DNA samples are drawn from a segregating population originating from a single cross. These bulks contain individuals that are identical for a particular trait (resistant or susceptible to particular disease) or genomic region but arbitrary at unlinked regions (i.e. heterozygous). Regions unlinked to the target region will not differ between the bulked samples of many individuals in BSA.

It is understood that one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be used as molecular markers. It is also understood that one or more of the protein molecules of the present invention may be used as molecular markers.

In accordance with this aspect of the present invention, a sample nucleic acid is obtained from plants cells or tissues. Any source of nucleic acid may be used. Preferably, the nucleic acid is genomic DNA. The nucleic acid is subjected to restriction endonuclease digestion. For example, one or more EST nucleic acid molecule or fragment thereof can be used as a probe in accordance with the above-described polymorphic methods. The polymorphism obtained in this approach can then be cloned to identify the mutation at the coding region which alters the protein's structure or regulatory region of the gene which affects its expression level.

In one aspect of the present invention, an evaluation can be conducted to determine whether a particular mRNA molecule is present. One or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention, preferably one or more of the EST nucleic acid molecules of the present invention are utilized to detect the presence or quantity of the mRNA species. Such molecules are then incubated with cell or tissue extracts of a plant under conditions sufficient to permit nucleic acid hybridization. The detection of double-stranded probe-mRNA hybrid molecules is indicative of the presence of the mRNA; the amount of such hybrid formed is proportional to the amount of mRNA. Thus, such probes may be used to ascertain the level and extent of the mRNA production in a plant's cells or tissues. Such nucleic acid hybridization may be conducted under quantitative conditions (thereby providing a numerical value of the amount of the mRNA present). Alternatively, the assay may be conducted as a qualitative assay that indicates either that the mRNA is present, or that its level exceeds a user set, predefined value.

A principle of *in situ* hybridization is that a labeled, single-stranded nucleic acid probe will hybridize to a complementary strand of cellular DNA or RNA and, under the appropriate conditions, these molecules will form a stable hybrid. When nucleic acid hybridization is combined with histological techniques, specific DNA or RNA sequences can be identified within a single cell. An advantage of *in situ* hybridization over more conventional techniques for the detection of nucleic acids is that it allows an investigator to determine the precise spatial population (Angerer *et al.*, *Dev. Biol.* 101: 477-484 (1984); Angerer *et al.*, *Dev. Biol.* 112: 157-166 (1985); Dixon *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 10: 1317-1324 (1991), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). *In situ* hybridization may be used to measure the steady-state level of RNA accumulation. It is a sensitive technique and RNA sequences present in as few as 5-10 copies per cell can be detected (Hardin *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 202: 417-431.(1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). A number of protocols have been devised for *in situ* hybridization, each with tissue preparation, hybridization, and washing conditions (Meyerowitz, *Plant Mol. Biol. Rep.* 5: 242-250 (1987); Cox and Goldberg, In: *Plant Molecular Biology: A Practical Approach* (ed. C.H. Shaw), pp. 1-35. IRL Press, Oxford (1988); Raikhel *et al.*, *In situ RNA*

hybridization in plant tissues. In *Plant Molecular Biology Manual*, vol. B9: 1-32. Kluwer Academic Publisher, Dordrecht, Belgium (1989), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

In situ hybridization also allows for the localization of proteins within a tissue or cell (Wilkinson, *In Situ Hybridization*, Oxford University Press, Oxford (1992); Langdale, *In Situ Hybridization* 165-179 In: *The Maize Handbook*, eds. Freeling and Walbot, Springer-Verlag, New York (1994), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). It is understood that one or more of the molecules of the present invention, preferably one or more of the EST nucleic acid molecules of the present invention or one or more of the antibodies of the present invention may be utilized to detect the level or pattern of a protein or fragment thereof by *in situ* hybridization.

Fluorescent *in situ* hybridization also enables the localization of a particular DNA sequence along a chromosome which is useful, among other uses, for gene mapping, following chromosomes in hybrid lines or detecting chromosomes with translocations, transversions or deletions. *In situ* hybridization has been used to identify chromosomes in several plant species (Griffor *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 17: 101-109 (1991); Gustafson *et al.*, *Proc. Nat'l. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 87: 1899-1902 (1990); Mukai and Gill, *Genome* 34: 448-452. (1991); Schwarzacher and Heslop-Harrison, *Genome* 34: 317-323 (1991); Wang *et al.*, *Jpn. J. Genet.* 66: 313-316 (1991); Parra and Windle, *Nature Genetics*, 5: 17-21 (1993), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). It is understood that the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be used as probes or markers to localize sequences along a chromosome.

It is also understood that one or more of the molecules of the present invention, preferably one or more of the EST nucleic acid molecules of the present invention or one or more of the antibodies of the present invention may be utilized to detect the expression level or pattern of a protein or mRNA thereof by *in situ* hybridization.

Another method to localize the expression of a molecule is tissue printing. Tissue printing provides a way to screen, at the same time on the same membrane many tissue sections from different plants or different developmental stages. Tissue-printing procedures utilize films designed to immobilize proteins and nucleic acids. In essence, a freshly cut section of an organ is pressed gently onto nitrocellulose paper, nylon membrane or polyvinylidene difluoride membrane. Such membranes are commercially available (e.g. Millipore, Bedford, Massachusetts). The contents of the cut cell transfer onto the membrane, and the molecules are immobilized to the membrane. The immobilized molecules form a latent print that can be visualized with appropriate probes. When a plant tissue print is made on nitrocellulose paper, the cell walls leave a physical print that makes the anatomy visible without further

treatment (Varner and Taylor, *Plant Physiol.* 91: 31-33 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Tissue printing on substrate films is described by Daoust, *Exp. Cell Res.* 12: 203-211 (1957), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference, who detected amylase, protease, ribonuclease, and deoxyribonuclease in animal tissues using starch, gelatin, and agar films. These techniques can be applied to plant tissues (Yomo and Taylor, *Planta* 112:35-43 (1973); Harris and Chrispeels, *Plant Physiol.* 56: 292-299 (1975). Advances in membrane technology have increased the range of applications of Daoust's tissue-printing techniques allowing (Cassab and Varner, *J. Cell. Biol.* 105: 2581-2588 (1987), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; the histochemical localization of various plant enzymes and deoxyribonuclease on nitrocellulose paper and nylon (Spruce *et al.*, *Phytochemistry*, 26: 2901-2903 (1987); Barres *et al.* *Neuron* 5: 527-544 (1990); Reid and Pont-Lezica, *Tissue Printing: Tools for the Study of Anatomy, Histochemistry, and Gene Expression*, Academic Press, New York, New York (1992); Reid *et al.* *Plant Physiol.* 93: 160-165 (1990); Ye *et al.* *Plant J.* 1: 175-183 (1991), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

It is understood that one or more of the molecules of the present invention, preferably one or more of the EST nucleic acid molecules of the present invention or one or more of the antibodies of the present invention may be utilized to detect the presence or quantity of a protein by tissue printing.

Further, it is also understood that any of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be used as marker nucleic acids and or probes in connection with methods that require probes or marker nucleic acids. As used herein, a probe is an agent that is utilized to determine an attribute or feature (e.g. presence or absence, location, correlation, etc.) or a molecule, cell, tissue or plant. As used herein, a marker nucleic acid is a nucleic acid molecule that is utilized to determine an attribute or feature (e.g., presence or absence, location, correlation, etc.) or a molecule, cell, tissue or plant.

A microarray-based method for high-throughput monitoring of gene expression may be utilized to measure expression response Schena *et al.*, *Science* 270:467-470 (1995); <http://cmgm.stanford.edu/pbrown/array.html>; Shalon, Ph.D. Thesis, Stanford University (1996). This approach is based on using arrays of DNA targets (e.g. cDNA inserts, colonies, or polymerase chain reaction products) for hybridization to a "complex probe" prepared with RNA extracted from a given cell line or tissue. The probe may be produced by reverse transcription of mRNA or total RNA and labeled with radioactive or fluorescent labeling. The probe is complex in that it contains many different sequences in various amounts, corresponding to the numbers of copies of the original mRNA species extracted from the sample.

The initial RNA source will typically be derived from a physiological source. The physiological source may be derived from a variety of eukaryotic sources, with physiological sources of interest including sources derived from single celled organisms such as yeast and multicellular organisms, including plants and animals, particularly plants, where the physiological sources from multicellular organisms may be derived from particular organs or tissues of the multicellular organism, or from isolated cells derived therefrom. The physiological sources may be derived from multicellular organisms at different developmental stages (*e.g.*, 10-day-old seedlings), grown under different environmental conditions (*e.g.*, drought-stressed plants) or treated with chemicals.

In obtaining the sample of RNAs to be analyzed from the physiological source from which it is derived, the physiological source may be subjected to a number of different processing steps, where such processing steps might include tissue homogenation, cell isolation and cytoplasmic extraction, nucleic acid extraction and the like, where such processing steps are known to those of skill in the art. Methods of isolating RNA from cells, tissues, organs or whole organisms are known to those of skill in the art and are described in Maniatis *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual* (Cold Spring Harbor Press) (1989).

The DNA may be placed on nylon or glass "microarrays" regularly arranged with a spot spacing of 1 mm or less. Expression levels can be measured for hundreds or thousands of genes, by using less than 2 micrograms of polyA⁺ RNA and determining the relative mRNA abundances down to one in ten thousand or less (Granjeaud *et al.*, *BioEssays* 21:781-790 (1999)).

As disclosed in US patent 5,445,934 arrays with nucleic acid molecules can comprise a substrate with a surface comprising 10^3 or more groups of oligonucleotides with different, known sequences covalently attached to the surface in discrete known regions, *e.g.* 10^4 or 10^5 or 10^6 or more different groups of known sequences in discrete known regions. In preferred arrays 10^3 or more groups of oligonucleotides occupy a total area of less than 1 cm^2 . In preferred embodiments the groups of oligonucleotides are at least 50% pure within the discrete known regions.

In addition to arrays of cDNA clones or inserts, arrays of oligonucleotides are also used to study differential gene expression. In an oligonucleotide array, the genes of interest are represented by a series of approximately 20 nucleotide oligomers that are unique to each gene. Labeled mRNA is prepared and hybridization signals are detected from specific sets of oligos that represent different genes supplemented by a set of control oligonucleotides. Potential advantages of the oligonucleotide array include enhanced specificity and sensitivity through the parallel analysis of "perfect match" oligos and "mismatch" oligos for each gene. The hybridization conditions can be adjusted to distinguish a perfect heteroduplex from a single base mismatch, thus allowing subtraction of nonspecific hybridization signals from specific

hybridization signals. A disadvantage of oligonucleotide arrays relative to cDNA arrays is the limitation of the technology to genes of known sequence (Granjeaud *et al.*, *BioEssays* 21:781-790 (1991); Carulli *et al.*, *Journal of Cellular Biochemistry Supplements* 30/31:286-296 (1998)).

These techniques have been successfully used to characterize patterns of gene expression associated with, for example, various important physiological changes in yeast, including the mitotic cell cycle, the heat shock response, and comparison between mating types. Once a set of comparable expression profiles is obtained, e.g. for cells at different time points or at different cellular states, a clustering algorithm generally is used to group sets of genes which share similar expression patterns. The clusters obtained can then be analyzed in the light of available functional annotations, often leading to associations of poorly characterized genes with genes whose function and regulation are better understood.

Regulatory networks that control gene expression can be characterized using microarray technology (DeRisi *et al.*, *Science* 278: 680-686 (1997); Winzler *et al.* *Science* 28: 1194-1197 (1998); Cho *et al.* *Mol Cell* 2: 65-73 (1998); Spellman *et al.* *Mol Biol Cell* 95: 14863-14868 (1998). For example, it has been reported that both cDNA and oligonucleotide arrays have been used to monitor gene expression in synchronized cell cultures. Analysis of the corresponding temporal patterns of gene expression resulted in the identification of over 400 cell cycle-regulated genes. In order to identify possible common regulatory mechanisms accounting for co-expression, consensus motifs in putative regulatory sequences upstream of the corresponding ORFs were examined. This resulted in the identification of several new potential binding sites for known factors or complexes involved in the coordinated transcription of genes during specific phases of the cell cycle (Thieffry, D. *BioEssays* 21: 895-899 (1999)).

The microarray approach may be used with polypeptide targets (U.S. Patent No. 5,445,934; U.S. Patent No. 5,143,854; U.S. Patent No. 5,079,600; U.S. Patent No. 4,923,901) synthesized on a substrate (microarray) and these polypeptides can be screened with either (Fodor *et al.*, *Science* 251:767-773 (1991)). It is understood that one or more of the nucleic acid molecules or protein or fragments thereof of the invention may be utilized in a microarray-based method.

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention microarrays may be prepared that comprise nucleic acid molecules where preferably at least 10%, preferably at least 25%, more preferably at least 50% and even more preferably at least 75%, 80%, 85%, 90% or 95% of the nucleic acid molecules located on that array are selected from the group of nucleic acid molecules that specifically hybridize to one or more nucleic acid molecule having a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group of SEQ ID NO: 1 through SEQ ID NO: 17880 or complement thereof or fragments of either.

A particular preferred microarray embodiment of the present invention is a microarray comprising nucleic acid molecules encoding genes or fragments thereof that are homologues of known genes or nucleic acid molecules that comprise genes or fragment thereof that elicit only limited or no matches to known genes. A further preferred microarray embodiment of the present invention is a microarray comprising nucleic acid molecules having genes or fragments thereof that are homologues of known genes and nucleic acid molecules that comprise genes or fragment thereof that elicit only limited or no matches to known genes. Site-directed mutagenesis may be utilized to modify nucleic acid sequences, particularly as it is a technique that allows one or more of the amino acids encoded by a nucleic acid molecule to be altered (e.g. a threonine to be replaced by a methionine). Three basic methods for site-directed mutagenesis are often employed. These are cassette mutagenesis (Wells *et al.*, *Gene* 34:315-23 (1985), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference), primer extension (Gilliam *et al.*, *Gene* 12:129-137 (1980), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference); Zoller and Smith, *Methods Enzymol.* 100:468-500 (1983), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; and Dalbadie-McFarland *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 79:6409-6413 (1982), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) and methods based upon PCR (Scharf *et al.*, *Science* 233:1076-1078 (1986), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference; Higuchi *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 16:7351-7367 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Site-directed mutagenesis approaches are also described in European Patent 0 385 962, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference, European Patent 0 359 472, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference, and PCT Patent Application WO 93/07278, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference.

Site-directed mutagenesis strategies have been applied to plants for both *in vitro* as well as *in vivo* site-directed mutagenesis (Lanz *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 266:9971-6 (1991); Kovgan and Zhdanov, *Biotehnologiya* 5:148-154; No. 207160n, Chemical Abstracts 110:225 (1989); Ge *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 86:4037-4041 (1989); Zhu *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 271:18494-18498 (1996); Chu *et al.*, *Biochemistry* 33:6150-6157 (1994); Small *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 11:1291-1296 (1992); Cho *et al.*, *Mol. Biotechnol.* 8:13-16 (1997); Kita *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 271:26529-26535 (1996); Jin *et al.*, *Mol. Microbiol.* 7:555-562 (1993); Hatfield and Vierstra, *J. Biol. Chem.* 267:14799-14803 (1992); Zhao *et al.*, *Biochemistry* 31:5093-5099 (1992), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

Any of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may either be modified by site-directed mutagenesis or used as, for example, nucleic acid molecules that are used to target other nucleic acid molecules for modification. It is understood that mutants with more than one altered nucleotide can

be constructed using techniques that practitioners skilled in the art are familiar with such as isolating restriction fragments and ligating such fragments into an expression vector (*see*, for example, Sambrook *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Press (1989)).

Sequence-specific DNA-binding proteins play a role in the regulation of transcription. The isolation of recombinant cDNAs encoding these proteins facilitates the biochemical analysis of their structural and functional properties. Genes encoding such DNA-binding proteins have been isolated using classical genetics (Vollbrecht *et al.*, *Nature* 350: 241-243 (1991), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) and molecular biochemical approaches, including the screening of recombinant cDNA libraries with antibodies (Landschulz *et al.*, *Genes Dev.* 2: 786-800 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) or DNA probes (Bodner *et al.*, *Cell* 55: 505-518 (1988), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). In addition, an *in situ* screening procedure has been used and has facilitated the isolation of sequence-specific DNA-binding proteins from various plant species (Gilmartin *et al.*, *Plant Cell* 4: 839-849 (1992); Schindler *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 11: 1261-1273 (1992), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). An *in situ* screening protocol does not require the purification of the protein of interest (Vinson *et al.*, *Genes Dev.* 2: 801-806 (1988); Singh *et al.*, *Cell* 52: 415-423 (1988), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

Steps may be employed to characterize DNA-protein interactions. The first is to identify promoter fragments that interact with DNA-binding proteins, to titrate binding activity, to determine the specificity of binding, and to determine whether a given DNA-binding activity can interact with related DNA sequences (Sambrook *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, 2nd edition. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, New York (1989). Electrophoretic mobility-shift assay is a widely used assay. The assay provides a simple, rapid, and sensitive method for detecting DNA-binding proteins based on the observation that the mobility of a DNA fragment through a nondenaturing, low-ionic strength polyacrylamide gel is retarded upon association with a DNA-binding protein (Fried and Crother, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 9: 6505-6525 (1981), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). When one or more specific binding activities have been identified, the exact sequence of the DNA bound by the protein may be determined. Several procedures for characterizing protein/DNA-binding sites are used, including methylation and ethylation interference assays (Maxam and Gilbert, *Methods Enzymol.* 65: 499-560 (1980); Wissman and Hillen, *Methods Enzymol.* 208: 365-379 (1991), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety) and footprinting techniques employing DNase I (Galas and Schmitz, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 5: 3157-3170 (1978), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), 1,10-phenanthroline-copper ion methods (Sigman *et al.*, *Methods Enzymol.*

208: 365-379 (1991), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety) or hydroxyl radical methods (Dixon *et al.*, *Methods Enzymol.* 208: 380-413 (1991), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). It is understood that one or more of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention, preferably one or more of the EST nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be utilized to identify a protein or fragment thereof that specifically binds to a nucleic acid molecule of the present invention. It is also understood that one or more of the protein molecules or fragments thereof of the present invention may be utilized to identify a nucleic acid molecule that specifically binds to it.

The two-hybrid system is based on the fact that many cellular functions are carried out by proteins that interact (physically) with one another. Two-hybrid systems have been used to probe the function of new proteins (Chien *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 88: 9578-9582 (1991); Durfee *et al.*, *Genes Dev.* 7: 555-569 (1993); Choi *et al.*, *Cell* 78: 499-512 (1994); Kranz *et al.*, *Genes Dev.* 8: 313-327 (1994), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

Interaction mating techniques have facilitated a number of two-hybrid studies of protein-protein interaction. Interaction mating has been used to examine interactions between small sets of tens of proteins (Finley and Brent, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 91: 12098-12984 (1994), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), larger sets of hundreds of proteins, (Bendixen *et al.*, *Nucl. Acids Res.* 22: 1778-1779 (1994), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety) and to comprehensively map proteins encoded by a small genome (Bartel *et al.*, *Nature Genetics* 12: 72-77 (1996), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). This technique utilizes proteins fused to the DNA-binding domain and proteins fused to the activation domain. They are expressed in two different haploid yeast strains of opposite mating type, and the strains are mated to determine if the two proteins interact. Mating occurs when haploid yeast strains come into contact and result in the fusion of the two haploids into a diploid yeast strain. An interaction can be determined by the activation of a two-hybrid reporter gene in the diploid strain. The primary advantage of this technique is that it reduces the number of yeast transformations needed to test individual interactions. It is understood that the protein-protein interactions of protein or fragments thereof of the present invention may be investigated using the two-hybrid system and that any of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention that encode such proteins or fragments thereof may be used to transform yeast in the two-hybrid system.

Synechocystis 6803 is a photosynthetic Cyanobacterium capable of oxygenic photosynthesis as well as heterotrophic growth in the absence of light. The entire genome has been sequenced, and it is reported to have a circular genome size of 3.57 Mbp containing 3168 potential open reading frames. Open reading frames (ORFs) were identified based upon their homology to other reported ORFs and by using ORF identification computer programs. Sixteen hundred potential ORFs were assigned based on their homology to previously identified ORFs.

Of these 1600 ORFs, 145 were identical to reported ORFs (Kaneko *et al.*, *DNA Research* 3:109-36 (1996), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

Several prokaryote promoters have been used in *Synechocystis* to express heterologous genes including the tac, lac, and lambda phage promoters (Bryant (ed.), *The Molecular Biology of Cyanobacteria*, Kluwer Academic Publishers, (1994); Ferino and Chauvat, *Gene* 84:257-266 (1989), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). Several bacterial origins of replication such as RSF1010 and ACYC are reported to replicate in *Synechocystis* (Mermet-Bouvier and Chauvat, *Current Microbiology* 28:145-148 (1994); Kuhlemeier *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 184:249-254 (1981), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

Synechocystis has been used to study gene regulation by gene replacement through homologous recombination or by gene disruption using antibiotic resistance markers (Pakrasi *et al.*, *EMBO* 7:325-332 (1988), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). In such gene regulation studies, double reciprocal homologous regions of the host genome flanking the gene of interest recombine to stably integrate the gene of interest into the genome. The gene of interest can be expressed once that gene has been stably integrated into the genome. Biochemical analysis can be performed to study the effect of the replaced or deleted gene.

It is understood that the agents of the present invention may be employed in a *Synechocystis* system.

Exogenous genetic material may be transferred into a plant cell and the plant cell regenerated into a whole, fertile or sterile plant. Exogenous genetic material is any genetic material, whether naturally occurring or otherwise, from any source that is capable of being inserted into any organism. Such genetic material may be transferred into either monocotyledons and dicotyledons including but not limited to the crops, maize and soybean (*See specifically*, Chistou, *Particle Bombardment for Genetic Engineering of Plants*, pp 63-69 (maize), pp50-60 (soybean), Biotechnology Intelligence Unit. Academic Press, San Diego, California (1996), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference and generally Chistou, *Particle Bombardment for Genetic Engineering of Plants*, Biotechnology Intelligence Unit. Academic Press, San Diego, California (1996), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Transfer of a nucleic acid that encodes for a protein can result in overexpression of that protein in a transformed cell or transgenic plant. One or more of the proteins or fragments thereof encoded by nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be overexpressed in a transformed cell or transformed plant. Such overexpression may be the result of transient or stable transfer of the exogenous material.

Exogenous genetic material may be transferred into a plant cell by the use of a DNA vector or construct designed for such a purpose. Design of such a vector is generally within the skill of the art

(See, Plant Molecular Biology: A Laboratory Manual eds. Clark, Springer, New York (1997), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

A construct or vector may include a plant promoter to express the protein or protein fragment of choice. A number of promoters which are active in plant cells have been described in the literature.

5 These include the nopaline synthase (NOS) promoter (Ebert *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 84:5745-5749 (1987), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the octopine synthase (OCS) promoter (which are carried on tumor-inducing plasmids of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*), the caulimovirus promoters such as the cauliflower mosaic virus (CaMV) 19S promoter (Lawton *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 9:315-324 (1987), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety) and the CAMV 35S promoter (Odell *et al.*, *Nature* 313:810-812 (1985), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the figwort mosaic virus 35S-promoter, the light-inducible promoter from the small subunit of ribulose-1,5-bis-phosphate carboxylase (ssRUBISCO), the Adh promoter (Walker *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 84:6624-6628 (1987), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the sucrose synthase promoter (Yang *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 87:4144-4148 (1990), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the R gene complex promoter (Chandler *et al.*, *The Plant Cell* 1:1175-1183 (1989), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), and the chlorophyll a/b binding protein gene promoter, etc. These promoters have been used to create DNA constructs which have been expressed in plants; see, e.g., PCT publication WO 84/02913, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

10 Promoters which are known or are found to cause transcription of DNA in plant cells can be used in the present invention. Such promoters may be obtained from a variety of sources such as plants and plant viruses. It is preferred that the particular promoter selected should be capable of causing sufficient expression to result in the production of an effective amount of a protein to cause the desired phenotype. In addition to promoters which are known to cause transcription of DNA in plant cells, other promoters may be identified for use in the current invention by screening a plant cDNA library for genes which are selectively or preferably expressed in the target tissues or cells.

15 For the purpose of expression in source tissues of the plant, such as the leaf, seed, root or stem, it is preferred that the promoters utilized in the present invention have relatively high expression in these specific tissues. For this purpose, one may choose from a number of promoters for genes with tissue- or cell-specific or -enhanced expression. Examples of such promoters reported in the literature include the chloroplast glutamine synthetase GS2 promoter from pea (Edwards *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 87:3459-3463 (1990), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the chloroplast fructose-1,6-biphosphatase (FBPase) promoter from wheat (Lloyd *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 225:209-216 (1991), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the nuclear photosynthetic ST-LS1 promoter from potato

(Stockhaus *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 8:2445-2451 (1989), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the phenylalanine ammonia-lyase (PAL) promoter and the chalcone synthase (CHS) promoter from *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Also reported to be active in photosynthetically active tissues are the ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase (RbcS) promoter from eastern larch (*Larix laricina*), the promoter for the *cab* gene, *cab6*, from pine (Yamamoto *et al.*, *Plant Cell Physiol.* 35:773-778 (1994), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the promoter for the Cab-1 gene from wheat (Fejes *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 15:921-932 (1990), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the promoter for the CAB-1 gene from spinach (Lubberstedt *et al.*, *Plant Physiol.* 104:997-1006 (1994), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the promoter for the *cab1R* gene from rice (Luan *et al.*, *Plant Cell.* 4:971-981 (1992), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the pyruvate, orthophosphate dikinase (PPDK) promoter from maize (Matsuoka *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 90: 9586-9590 (1993), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the promoter for the tobacco Lhcb1*2 gene (Cerdan *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 33: 245-255. (1997), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the *Arabidopsis thaliana* SUC2 sucrose-H⁺ symporter promoter (Truernit *et al.*, *Planta.* 196: 564-570 (1995), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), and the promoter for the thylacoid membrane proteins from spinach (*psaD*, *psaF*, *psaE*, *PC*, *FNR*, *atpC*, *atpD*, *cab*, *rbcS*). Other promoters for the chlorophyll *a/b*-binding proteins may also be utilized in the present invention, such as the promoters for Lhcb gene and PsbP gene from white mustard (*Sinapis alba*; Kretsch *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 28: 219-229 (1995), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

For the purpose of expression in sink tissues of the plant, such as the tuber of the potato plant, the fruit of tomato, or the seed of maize, wheat, rice, and barley, it is preferred that the promoters utilized in the present invention have relatively high expression in these specific tissues. A number of promoters for genes with tuber-specific or -enhanced expression are known, including the class I patatin promoter (Bevan *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 8: 1899-1906 (1986); Jefferson *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 14: 995-1006 (1990), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety), the promoter for the potato tuber ADPGPP genes, both the large and small subunits, the sucrose synthase promoter (Salanoubat and Belliard, *Gene.* 60: 47-56 (1987), Salanoubat and Belliard, *Gene.* 84: 181-185 (1989), both of which are incorporated by reference in their entirety), the promoter for the major tuber proteins including the 22 kd protein complexes and proteinase inhibitors (Hannapel, *Plant Physiol.* 101: 703-704 (1993), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the promoter for the granule bound starch synthase gene (GBSS) (Visser *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 17: 691-699 (1991), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), and other class I and II patatins promoters (Koster-Topfer *et al.*, *Mol Gen Genet.* 219: 390-396

(1989); Mignery *et al.*, *Gene*. 62: 27-44 (1988), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

Other promoters can also be used to express a fructose 1,6 biphosphate aldolase gene in specific tissues, such as seeds or fruits. The promoter for β -conglycinin (Chen *et al.*, *Dev. Genet.* 10: 112-122 (1989), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety) or other seed-specific promoters such as the napin and phaseolin promoters, can be used. The zeins are a group of storage proteins found in maize endosperm. Genomic clones for zein genes have been isolated (Pedersen *et al.*, *Cell* 29: 1015-1026 (1982), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), and the promoters from these clones, including the 15 kD, 16 kD, 19 kD, 22 kD, 27 kD, and gamma genes, could also be used. Other promoters known to function, for example, in maize, include the promoters for the following genes: *waxy*, *Brittle*, *Shrunken* 2, Branching enzymes I and II, starch synthases, debranching enzymes, oleosins, glutelins, and sucrose synthases. A particularly preferred promoter for maize endosperm expression is the promoter for the glutelin gene from rice, more particularly the Osgt-1 promoter (Zheng *et al.*, *Mol. Cell Biol.* 13: 5829-5842 (1993), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). Examples of promoters suitable for expression in wheat include those promoters for the ADPGlucose pyrophosphorylase (ADPGPP) subunits, the granule bound and other starch synthases, the branching and debranching enzymes, the embryogenesis-abundant proteins, the gliadins, and the glutenins. Examples of such promoters in rice include those promoters for the ADPGPP subunits, the granule bound and other starch synthases, the branching enzymes, the debranching enzymes, sucrose synthases, and the glutelins. A particularly preferred promoter is the promoter for rice glutelin, Osgt-1. Examples of such promoters for barley include those for the ADPGPP subunits, the granule bound and other starch synthases, the branching enzymes, the debranching enzymes, sucrose synthases, the hordeins, the embryo globulins, and the aleurone specific proteins.

Root specific promoters may also be used. An example of such a promoter is the promoter for the acid chitinase gene (Samac *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 25: 587-596 (1994), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). Expression in root tissue could also be accomplished by utilizing the root specific subdomains of the CaMV35S promoter that have been identified (Lam *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 86:7890-7894 (1989), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). Other root cell specific promoters include those reported by Conkling *et al.* (Conkling *et al.*, *Plant Physiol.* 93:1203-1211 (1990), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

Additional promoters that may be utilized are described, for example, in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,378,619, 5,391,725, 5,428,147, 5,447,858, 5,608,144, 5,608,144, 5,614,399, 5,633,441, 5,633,435, and 4,633,436, all of which are herein incorporated in their entirety. In addition, a tissue specific enhancer

may be used (Fromm *et al.*, *The Plant Cell* 1:977-984 (1989), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

Constructs or vectors may also include, with the coding region of interest, a nucleic acid sequence that acts, in whole or in part, to terminate transcription of that region. For example, such sequences have been isolated including the Tr7 3' sequence and the nos 3' sequence (Ingelbrecht *et al.*, *The Plant Cell* 1:671-680 (1989); Bevan *et al.*, *Nucleic Acids Res.* 11:369-385 (1983), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety), or the like.

A vector or construct may also include regulatory elements. Examples of such include the Adh intron 1 (Callis *et al.*, *Genes and Develop.* 1:1183-1200 (1987), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), the sucrose synthase intron (Vasil *et al.*, *Plant Physiol.* 91:1575-1579 (1989), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety) and the TMV omega element (Gallie *et al.*, *The Plant Cell* 1:301-311 (1989), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). These and other regulatory elements may be included when appropriate.

A vector or construct may also include a selectable marker. Selectable markers may also be used to select for plants or plant cells that contain the exogenous genetic material. Examples of such include, but are not limited to, a neo gene (Potrykus *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 199:183-188 (1985), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety) which codes for kanamycin resistance and can be selected for using kanamycin, G418, etc.; a bar gene which codes for bialaphos resistance; a mutant EPSP synthase gene (Hinchey *et al.*, *Bio/Technology* 6:915-922 (1988), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety) which encodes glyphosate resistance; a nitrilase gene which confers resistance to bromoxynil (Stalker *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 263:6310-6314 (1988), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety); a mutant acetolactate synthase gene (ALS) which confers imidazolinone or sulphonylurea resistance (European Patent Application 154,204 (Sept. 11, 1985), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety); and a methotrexate resistant DHFR gene (Thillet *et al.*, *J. Biol. Chem.* 263:12500-12508 (1988), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

A vector or construct may also include a transit peptide. Incorporation of a suitable chloroplast transit peptide may also be employed (European Patent Application Publication Number 0218571, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). Translational enhancers may also be incorporated as part of the vector DNA. DNA constructs could contain one or more 5' non-translated leader sequences which may serve to enhance expression of the gene products from the resulting mRNA transcripts. Such sequences may be derived from the promoter selected to express the gene or can be specifically modified to increase translation of the mRNA. Such regions may also be obtained from viral RNAs, from suitable eukaryotic

genes, or from a synthetic gene sequence. For a review of optimizing expression of transgenes, see Koziel *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 32:393-405 (1996), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety.

A vector or construct may also include a screenable marker. Screenable markers may be used to monitor expression. Exemplary screenable markers include a β -glucuronidase or uidA gene (GUS) which encodes an enzyme for which various chromogenic substrates are known (Jefferson, *Plant Mol. Biol. Rep.* 5: 387-405 (1987); Jefferson *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 6: 3901-3907 (1987), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety); an R-locus gene, which encodes a product that regulates the production of anthocyanin pigments (red color) in plant tissues ((Dellaporta *et al.*, *Stadler Symposium* 11:263-282 (1988), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety); a β -lactamase gene (Sutcliffe *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 75: 3737-3741 (1978), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), a gene which encodes an enzyme for which various chromogenic substrates are known (e.g., PADAC, a chromogenic cephalosporin); a luciferase gene (Ow *et al.*, *Science* 234: 856-859 (1986), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety) a xyle gene (Zukowsky *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 80:1101-1105 (1983), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety) which encodes a catechol dioxygenase that can convert chromogenic catechols; an α -amylase gene (Ikata *et al.*, *Bio/Technol.* 8:241-242 (1990), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety); a tyrosinase gene (Katz *et al.*, *J. Gen. Microbiol.* 129:2703-2714 (1983), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety) which encodes an enzyme capable of oxidizing tyrosine to DOPA and dopaquinone which in turn condenses to melanin; an α -galactosidase, which will turn a chromogenic α -galactose substrate.

Included within the terms "selectable or screenable marker genes" are also genes which encode a scriptable marker whose secretion can be detected as a means of identifying or selecting for transformed cells. Examples include markers which encode a secretable antigen that can be identified by antibody interaction, or even secretable enzymes which can be detected catalytically. Secretable proteins fall into a number of classes, including small, diffusible proteins detectable, e.g., by ELISA, small active enzymes detectable in extracellular solution (e.g., α -amylase, β -lactamase, phosphinothricin transferase), or proteins which are inserted or trapped in the cell wall (such as proteins which include a leader sequence such as that found in the expression unit of extension or tobacco PR-S). Other possible selectable and/or screenable marker genes will be apparent to those of skill in the art.

Methods and compositions for transforming a bacteria and other microorganisms are known in the art (see for example Sambrook *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Second Edition, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

There are many methods for introducing transforming nucleic acid molecules into plant cells. Suitable methods are believed to include virtually any method by which nucleic acid molecules may be introduced into a cell, such as by *Agrobacterium* infection or direct delivery of nucleic acid molecules such as, for example, by PEG-mediated transformation, by electroporation or by acceleration of DNA coated particles, etc. (Pottkyus, *Ann. Rev. Plant Physiol. Plant Mol. Biol.* 42:205-225 (1991); Vasil, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 25: 925-937 (1994), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). For example, electroporation has been used to transform maize protoplasts (Fromm *et al.*, *Nature* 312:791-793 (1986), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

Other vector systems suitable for introducing transforming DNA into a host plant cell includes but is not limited to binary artificial chromosome (BIBAC) vectors (Hamilton *et al.*, *Gene* 200:107-116, (1997), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety, and transfection with RNA viral vectors (Della-Cioppa *et al.*, *Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.* (1996), 792 (Engineering Plants for Commercial Products and Applications), 57-61, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference.

Technology for introduction of DNA into cells is well known to those of skill in the art. Four general methods for delivering a gene into cells have been described: (1) chemical methods (Graham and van der Eb, *Virology*, 54:536-539 (1973), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference); (2) physical methods such as microinjection (Capecchi, *Cell* 22:479-488 (1980), electroporation (Wong and Neumann, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.*, 107:584-587 (1982); Fromm *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 82:5824-5828 (1985); U. S. Patent No. 5,384,253; and the gene gun (Johnston and Tang, *Methods Cell Biol.* 43:353-365 (1994), all of which the entirety is herein incorporated by reference); (3) viral vectors (Clapp, *Clin. Perinatol.*, 20:155-168 (1993); Lu *et al.*, *J. Exp. Med.*, 178:2089-2096 (1993); Eglitis and Anderson, *Biotechniques*, 6:608-614 (1988), all of which the entirety is herein incorporated by reference); and (4) receptor-mediated mechanisms (Curiel *et al.*, *Hum. Gen. Ther.*, 3:147-154 (1992); Wagner *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 89:6099-6103 (1992), all of which the entirety is herein incorporated by reference).

Acceleration methods that may be used include, for example, microprojectile bombardment and the like. One example of a method for delivering transforming nucleic acid molecules to plant cells is microprojectile bombardment. This method has been reviewed by Yang and Christou, eds., *Particle Bombardment Technology for Gene Transfer*, Oxford Press, Oxford, England (1994), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). Non-biological particles (microprojectiles) that may be coated with nucleic acids and delivered into cells by a propelling force. Exemplary particles include those comprised of tungsten, gold, platinum, and the like.

A particular advantage of microprojectile bombardment, in addition to it being an effective means of reproducibly, and stably transforming monocotyledons, is that neither the isolation of protoplasts (Cristou *et al.*, *Plant Physiol.* 87:671-674 (1988), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety) nor the susceptibility of *Agrobacterium* infection is required. An illustrative embodiment of a method for delivering DNA into maize cells by acceleration is a biolistics g-particle delivery system, which can be used to propel particles coated with DNA through a screen, such as a stainless steel or Nytex screen, onto a filter surface covered with corn cells cultured in suspension. Gordon-Kamm *et al.*, describes the basic procedure for coating tungsten particles with DNA (Gordon-Kamm *et al.*, *Plant Cell* 2: 603-618 (1990), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). The screen disperses the tungsten nucleic acid particles so that they are not delivered to the recipient cells in large aggregates. A particle delivery system suitable for use with the present invention is the helium acceleration PDS-1000/He gun which is available from Bio-Rad Laboratories (Bio-Rad, Hercules, California)(Sanford *et al.*, *Technique* 3:3-16 (1991), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

For the bombardment, cells in suspension may be concentrated on filters. Filters containing the cells to be bombarded are positioned at an appropriate distance below the microprojectile stopping plate. If desired, one or more screens are also positioned between the gun and the cells to be bombarded.

Alternatively, immature embryos or other target cells may be arranged on solid culture medium. The cells to be bombarded are positioned at an appropriate distance below the macroprojectile stopping plate. If desired, one or more screens are also positioned between the acceleration device and the cells to be bombarded. Through the use of techniques set forth herein one may obtain up to 1000 or more foci of cells transiently expressing a marker gene. The number of cells in a focus which express the exogenous gene product 48 hours post-bombardment often range from one to ten and average one to three.

In bombardment transformation, one may optimize the prebombardment culturing conditions and the bombardment parameters to yield the maximum numbers of stable transformants. Both the physical and biological parameters for bombardment are important in this technology. Physical factors are those that involve manipulating the DNA/microprojectile precipitate or those that affect the flight and velocity of either the macro- or microprojectiles. Biological factors include all steps involved in manipulation of cells before and immediately after bombardment, the osmotic adjustment of target cells to help alleviate the trauma associated with bombardment, and also the nature of the transforming DNA, such as linearized DNA or intact supercoiled plasmids. It is believed that pre-bombardment manipulations are especially important for successful transformation of immature embryos. In another alternative embodiment, plastids can be stably transformed. Methods disclosed for plastid transformation in higher plants include the particle gun delivery of DNA containing a selectable marker and targeting of the DNA

to the plastid genome through homologous recombination (Svab *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 87:8526-8530 (1990); Svab and Maliga, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 90:913-917 (1993); Staub and Maliga, *EMBO J.* 12:601-606 (1993); U.S. Patents 5, 451,513 and 5,545,818, all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

Accordingly, it is contemplated that one may wish to adjust various aspects of the bombardment parameters in small scale studies to fully optimize the conditions. One may particularly wish to adjust physical parameters such as gap distance, flight distance, tissue distance, and helium pressure. One may also minimize the trauma reduction factors by modifying conditions which influence the physiological state of the recipient cells and which may therefore influence transformation and integration efficiencies. For example, the osmotic state, tissue hydration and the subculture stage or cell cycle of the recipient cells may be adjusted for optimum transformation. The execution of other routine adjustments will be known to those of skill in the art in light of the present disclosure.

Agrobacterium-mediated transfer is a widely applicable system for introducing genes into plant cells because the DNA can be introduced into whole plant tissues, thereby bypassing the need for regeneration of an intact plant from a protoplast. The use of *Agrobacterium*-mediated plant integrating vectors to introduce DNA into plant cells is well known in the art. See, for example the methods described (Fraley *et al.*, *Biotechnology* 3:629-635 (1985); Rogers *et al.*, *Meth. In Enzymol.* 153:253-277 (1987), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety. Further, the integration of the Ti-DNA is a relatively precise process resulting in few rearrangements. The region of DNA to be transferred is defined by the border sequences, and intervening DNA is usually inserted into the plant genome as described (Spielmann *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.*, 205:34 (1986), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

Modern *Agrobacterium* transformation vectors are capable of replication in *E. coli* as well as *Agrobacterium*, allowing for convenient manipulations as described (Klee *et al.*, *In: Plant DNA Infectious Agents*, T. Hohn and J. Schell, eds., Springer-Verlag, New York, pp. 179-203 (1985), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference. Moreover, recent technological advances in vectors for *Agrobacterium*-mediated gene transfer have improved the arrangement of genes and restriction sites in the vectors to facilitate construction of vectors capable of expressing various polypeptide coding genes. The vectors described have convenient multi-linker regions flanked by a promoter and a polyadenylation site for direct expression of inserted polypeptide coding genes and are suitable for present purposes (Rogers *et al.*, *Meth. In Enzymol.*, 153:253-277 (1987), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference). In addition, *Agrobacterium* containing both armed and disarmed Ti genes can be used for the transformations. In those plant strains where *Agrobacterium*-mediated

transformation is efficient, it is the method of choice because of the facile and defined nature of the gene transfer.

A transgenic plant formed using *Agrobacterium* transformation methods typically contains a single gene on one chromosome. Such transgenic plants can be referred to as being heterozygous for the added gene. More preferred is a transgenic plant that is homozygous for the added structural gene; *i.e.*, a transgenic plant that contains two added genes, one gene at the same locus on each chromosome of a chromosome pair. A homozygous transgenic plant can be obtained by sexually mating (selfing) an independent segregant transgenic plant that contains a single added gene, germinating some of the seed produced and analyzing the resulting plants produced for the gene of interest.

It is also to be understood that two different transgenic plants can also be mated to produce offspring that contain two independently segregating added, exogenous genes. Selfing of appropriate progeny can produce plants that are homozygous for both added, exogenous genes that encode a polypeptide of interest. Back-crossing to a parental plant and out-crossing with a non-transgenic plant are also contemplated, as is vegetative propagation.

Transformation of plant protoplasts can be achieved using methods based on calcium phosphate precipitation, polyethylene glycol treatment, electroporation, and combinations of these treatments. See for example (Potrykus *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.*, 205:193-200 (1986); Lorz *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.*, 199:178, (1985); Fromm *et al.*, *Nature*, 319:791,(1986); Uchimiya *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.*:204:204, (1986); Callis *et al.*, *Genes and Development*, 1183,(1987); Marcotte *et al.*, *Nature*, 335:454, (1988), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

Application of these systems to different plant strains depends upon the ability to regenerate that particular plant strain from protoplasts. Illustrative methods for the regeneration of cereals from protoplasts are described (Fujimura *et al.*, *Plant Tissue Culture Letters*, 2:74,(1985); Toriyama *et al.*, *Theor Appl. Genet.* 205:34. (1986); Yamada *et al.*, *Plant Cell Rep.*, 4:85, (1986); Abdullah *et al.*, *Biotechnology*, 4:1087, (1986), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

To transform plant strains that cannot be successfully regenerated from protoplasts, other ways to introduce DNA into intact cells or tissues can be utilized. For example, regeneration of cereals from immature embryos or explants can be effected as described (Vasil, *Biotechnology*, 6:397,(1988), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). In addition, "particle gun" or high-velocity microprojectile technology can be utilized (Vasil *et al.*, *Bio/Technology* 10:667, (1992), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

Using the latter technology, DNA is carried through the cell wall and into the cytoplasm on the surface of small metal particles as described (Klein *et al.*, *Nature*, 328:70, (1987); Klein *et al.*, *Proc.*

Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 85:8502-8505, (1988); McCabe *et al.*, *Biotechnology*, 6:923, (1988), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). The metal particles penetrate through several layers of cells and thus allow the transformation of cells within tissue explants.

Other methods of cell transformation can also be used and include but are not limited to introduction of DNA into plants by direct DNA transfer into pollen (Hess *et al.*, *Intern Rev. Cytol.*, 107:367, (1987); Luo *et al.*, *Plant Mol Biol. Reporter*, 6:165, (1988), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety), by direct injection of DNA into reproductive organs of a plant (Pena *et al.*, *Nature*, 325:274, (1987), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), or by direct injection of DNA into the cells of immature embryos followed by the rehydration of dessicated embryos (Neuhaus *et al.*, *Theor. Appl. Genet.*, 75:30, (1987), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

The regeneration, development, and cultivation of plants from single plant protoplast transformants or from various transformed explants is well known in the art (Weissbach and Weissbach, *In: Methods for Plant Molecular Biology*, (Eds.), Academic Press, Inc. San Diego, CA, (1988), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). This regeneration and growth process typically includes the steps of selection of transformed cells, culturing those individualized cells through the usual stages of embryonic development through the rooted plantlet stage. Transgenic embryos and seeds are similarly regenerated. The resulting transgenic rooted shoots are thereafter planted in an appropriate plant growth medium such as soil.

The development or regeneration of plants containing the foreign, exogenous gene that encodes a protein of interest is well known in the art. Preferably, the regenerated plants are self-pollinated to provide homozygous transgenic plants, as discussed before. Otherwise, pollen obtained from the regenerated plants is crossed to seed-grown plants of agronomically important lines. Conversely, pollen from plants of these important lines is used to pollinate regenerated plants. A transgenic plant of the present invention containing a desired polypeptide is cultivated using methods well known to one skilled in the art.

There are a variety of methods for the regeneration of plants from plant tissue. The particular method of regeneration will depend on the starting plant tissue and the particular plant species to be regenerated.

Methods for transforming dicots, primarily by use of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, and obtaining transgenic plants have been published for cotton (U. S. Patent No. 5,004,863, U.S. Patent No. 5,159,135, U.S. Patent No. 5,518,908, all of which herein incorporated by reference in their entirety); soybean (U. S. Patent No. 5,569,834, U. S. Patent No. 5,416,011, McCabe *et al.*, *Biotechnology* 6:923, (1988), Christou *et al.*, *Plant Physiol.*, 87:671-674 (1988), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their

entirety); *Brassica* (U. S. Patent No. 5,463,174, herein incorporated by reference in its entirety); peanut (Cheng *et al.*, *Plant Cell Rep.* 15: 653-657 (1996); McKently *et al.*, *Plant Cell Rep.* 14:699-703 (1995), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety); papaya (Yang *et al.*, (1996), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety); pea (Grant *et al.*, *Plant Cell Rep.* 15:254-258, (1995), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

Transformation of monocotyledons using electroporation, particle bombardment, and *Agrobacterium* have also been reported. Transformation and plant regeneration have been achieved in asparagus (Bytebier *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 84:5345, (1987), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety); barley (Wan and Lemaux, *Plant Physiol* 104:37, (1994), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety); maize (Rhodes *et al.*, *Science* 240: 204, (1988), Gordon-Kamm *et al.*, *Plant Cell*, 2:603, (1990), Fromm *et al.*, *Bio/Technology* 8:833, (1990), Koziel *et al.*, *Bio/Technology* 11:194, (1993), Armstrong *et al.*, *Crop Science* 35:550-557, (1995), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety); oat (Somers *et al.*, *Bio/Technology*, 10:1589, (1992), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety); orchardgrass (Horn *et al.*, *Plant Cell Rep.* 7:469, (1988), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety); rice (Toriyama *et al.*, *Theor Appl. Genet.* 205:34, (1986); Park *et al.*, *Plant Mol. Biol.*, 32: 1135-1148, (1996); Abedinia *et al.*, *Aust. J. Plant Physiol.* 24:133-141, (1997); Zhang and Wu, *Theor. Appl. Genet.* 76:835, (1988); Zhang *et al.* *Plant Cell Rep.* 7:379, (1988); Batraw and Hall, *Plant Sci.* 86:191-202, (1992); Christou *et al.*, *Bio/Technology* 9:957, (1991), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety); sugarcane (Bower and Birch, *Plant J.* 2:409, (1992), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety); tall fescue (Wang *et al.*, *Bio/Technology* 10:691, (1992), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety), and wheat (Vasil *et al.*, *Bio/Technology* 10:667, (1992); U. S. Patent No. 5,631,152, both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

Assays for gene expression based on the transient expression of cloned nucleic acid constructs have been developed by introducing the nucleic acid molecules into plant cells by polyethylene glycol treatment, electroporation, or particle bombardment (Marcotte, *et al.*, *Nature*, 335: 454-457 (1988); Marcotte, *et al.*, *Plant Cell*, 1: 523-532 (1989); McCarty, *et al.*, *Cell* 66: 895-905 (1991); Hattori, *et al.*, *Genes Dev.* 6: 609-618 (1992); Goff, *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 9: 2517-2522 (1990), all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). Transient expression systems may be used to functionally dissect gene constructs (See generally, Mailga *et al.*, *Methods in Plant Molecular Biology*, Cold Spring Harbor Press (1995)).

Any of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be introduced into a plant cell in a permanent or transient manner in combination with other genetic elements such as vectors, promoters enhancers etc. Further any of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be introduced into

a plant cell in a manner that allows for over expression of the protein or fragment thereof encoded by the nucleic acid molecule.

Cosuppression is the reduction in expression levels, usually at the level of RNA, of a particular endogenous gene or gene family by the expression of a homologous sense construct that is capable of transcribing mRNA of the same strandedness as the transcript of the endogenous gene (Napoli *et al.*, *Plant Cell* 2: 279-289 (1990); van der Krol *et al.*, *Plant Cell* 2: 291-299 (1990), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). Cosuppression may result from stable transformation with a single copy nucleic acid molecule that is homologous to a nucleic acid sequence found with the cell (Prolls and Meyer, *Plant J.* 2:465-475 (1992), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety) or with multiple copies of a nucleic acid molecule that is homologous to a nucleic acid sequence found with the cell (Mittlesten *et al.*, *Mol. Gen. Genet.* 244: 325-330 (1994), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). Genes, even though different, linked to homologous promoters may result in the cosuppression of the linked genes (Vaucheret, *C.R. Acad. Sci. III* 316: 1471-1483 (1993), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety).

This technique has, for example been applied to generate white flowers from red petunia and tomatoes that do not ripen on the vine. Up to 50% of petunia transformants that contained a sense copy of the chalcone synthase (CHS) gene produced white flowers or floral sectors; this was as a result of the post-transcriptional loss of mRNA encoding CHS (Flavell, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. (U.S.A.)* 91:3490-3496 (1994)), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). Cosuppression may require the coordinate transcription of the transgene and the endogenous gene, and can be reset by a developmental control mechanism (Jorgensen, *Trends Biotechnol.* 8:340344 (1990); Meins and Kunz, In: *Gene Inactivation and Homologous Recombination in Plants* (Paszkowski, J., ed.), pp. 335-348. Kluwer Academic, Netherlands (1994), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

It is understood that one or more of the nucleic acids of the present invention including those comprising SEQ ID NO:1 through SEQ ID NO:17880 or complement thereof or fragments of either or other nucleic acid molecules of the present invention may be introduced into a plant cell and transcribed using an appropriate promoter with such transcription resulting in the co-suppression of an endogenous protein.

Antisense approaches are a way of preventing or reducing gene function by targeting the genetic material (Mol *et al.*, *FEBS Lett.* 268: 427-430 (1990), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). The objective of the antisense approach is to use a sequence complementary to the target gene to block its expression and create a mutant cell line or organism in which the level of a single chosen protein is selectively reduced or abolished. Antisense techniques have several advantages over other 'reverse

genetic' approaches. The site of inactivation and its developmental effect can be manipulated by the choice of promoter for antisense genes or by the timing of external application or microinjection. Antisense can manipulate its specificity by selecting either unique regions of the target gene or regions where it shares homology to other related genes (Hiatt *et al.*, *In Genetic Engineering*, Setlow (ed.), Vol. 11, New York: Plenum 49-63 (1989), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).

The principle of regulation by antisense RNA is that RNA that is complementary to the target mRNA is introduced into cells, resulting in specific RNA:RNA duplexes being formed by base pairing between the antisense substrate and the target mRNA (Green *et al.*, *Annu. Rev. Biochem.* 55: 569-597 (1986), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). Under one embodiment, the process involves the introduction and expression of an antisense gene sequence. Such a sequence is one in which part or all of the normal gene sequences are placed under a promoter in inverted orientation so that the 'wrong' or complementary strand is transcribed into a noncoding antisense RNA that hybridizes with the target mRNA and interferes with its expression (Takayama and Inouye, *Crit. Rev. Biochem. Mol. Biol.* 25: 155-184 (1990), herein incorporated by reference in its entirety). An antisense vector is constructed by standard procedures and introduced into cells by transformation, transfection, electroporation, microinjection, or by infection, etc. The type of transformation and choice of vector will determine whether expression is transient or stable. The promoter used for the antisense gene may influence the level, timing, tissue, specificity, or inducibility of the antisense inhibition.

It is understood that protein synthesis activity in a plant cell may be reduced or depressed by growing a transformed plant cell containing a nucleic acid molecule whose non-transcribed strand encodes a protein or fragment thereof.

Antibodies have been expressed in plants (Hiatt *et al.*, *Nature* 342:76-78 (1989); Conrad and Fielder, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 26: 1023-1030 (1994), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). Cytoplasmic expression of a scFv (single-chain Fv antibodies) has been reported to delay infection by artichoke mottled crinkle virus. Transgenic plants that express antibodies directed against endogenous proteins may exhibit a physiological effect (Philips *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 16: 4489-4496 (1997); Marion-Poll, *Trends in Plant Science* 2: 447-448 (1997), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). For example, expressed anti-abscisic antibodies reportedly result in a general perturbation of seed development (Philips *et al.*, *EMBO J.* 16: 4489-4496 (1997)).

Antibodies that are catalytic may also be expressed in plants (abzymes). The principle behind abzymes is that since antibodies may be raised against many molecules, this recognition ability can be directed toward generating antibodies that bind transition states to force a chemical reaction forward (Persidas, *Nature Biotechnology* 15:1313-1315 (1997); Baca *et al.*, *Ann. Rev. Biophys. Biomol. Struct.*

26:461-493 (1997), both of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety). The catalytic abilities of abzymes may be enhanced by site directed mutagenesis. Examples of abzymes are, for example, set forth in U.S. Patent No. 5,658,753; U.S. Patent No. 5,632,990; U.S. Patent No. 5,631,137; U.S. Patent 5,602,015; U.S. Patent No. 5,559,538; U.S. Patent No. 5,576,174; U.S. Patent No. 5,500,358; 5 U.S. Patent 5,318,897; U.S. Patent No. 5,298,409; U.S. Patent No. 5,258,289 and U.S. Patent No. 5,194,585, all of which are herein incorporated in their entirety.

It is understood that any of the antibodies of the present invention may be expressed in plants and that such expression can result in a physiological effect. It is also understood that any of the expressed antibodies may be catalytic.

10 In addition to the above discussed procedures, practitioners are familiar with the standard resource materials which describe specific conditions and procedures for the construction, manipulation and isolation of macromolecules (e.g., DNA molecules, plasmids, etc.), generation of recombinant organisms and the screening and isolating of clones, (see for example, Sambrook *et al.*, *Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Press (1989); Mailga *et al.*, *Methods in Plant Molecular Biology*, Cold Spring Harbor Press (1995); Birren *et al.*, *Genome Analysis: Analyzing DNA*, 1, Cold Spring Harbor, New York, all of which are herein incorporated by reference in their entirety).

15 The nucleotide sequence provided in SEQ ID NO:1, through SEQ ID NO:17880 or fragment thereof, or complement thereof, or a nucleotide sequence at least 90% identical, preferably 95%, identical even more preferably 99% or 100% identical to the sequence provided in SEQ ID NO:1 through 20 SEQ ID NO:17880 or fragment thereof, or complement thereof, can be "provided" in a variety of mediums to facilitate use fragment thereof. Such a medium can also provide a subset thereof in a form that allows a skilled artisan to examine the sequences.

25 In one application of this embodiment, a nucleotide sequence of the present invention can be recorded on computer readable media. As used herein, "computer readable media" refers to any medium that can be read and accessed directly by a computer. Such media include, but are not limited to: magnetic storage media, such as floppy discs, hard disc, storage medium, and magnetic tape; optical storage media such as CD-ROM; electrical storage media such as RAM and ROM; and hybrids of these categories such as magnetic/optical storage media. A skilled artisan can readily appreciate how any of the presently known computer readable mediums can be used to create a manufacture comprising 30 computer readable medium having recorded thereon a nucleotide sequence of the present invention.

As used herein, "recorded" refers to a process for storing information on computer readable medium. A skilled artisan can readily adopt any of the presently known methods for recording information on computer readable medium to generate media comprising the nucleotide sequence

information of the present invention. A variety of data storage structures are available to a skilled artisan for creating a computer readable medium having recorded thereon a nucleotide sequence of the present invention. The choice of the data storage structure will generally be based on the means chosen to access the stored information. In addition, a variety of data processor programs and formats can be used to store the nucleotide sequence information of the present invention on computer readable medium. The sequence information can be represented in a word processing text file, formatted in commercially-available software such as WordPerfect and Microsoft Word, or represented in the form of an ASCII file, stored in a database application, such as DB2, Sybase, Oracle, or the like. A skilled artisan can readily adapt any number of data processor structuring formats (e.g. text file or database) in order to obtain computer readable medium having recorded thereon the nucleotide sequence information of the present invention.

By providing one or more of nucleotide sequences of the present invention, a skilled artisan can routinely access the sequence information for a variety of purposes. Computer software is publicly available which allows a skilled artisan to access sequence information provided in a computer readable medium. The examples which follow demonstrate how software which implements the BLAST (Altschul *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 215:403-410 (1990)) and BLAZE (Brutlag *et al.*, *Comp. Chem.* 17:203-207 (1993), the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference) search algorithms on a Sybase system can be used to identify open reading frames (ORFs) within the genome that contain homology to ORFs or proteins from other organisms. Such ORFs are protein-encoding fragments within the sequences of the present invention and are useful in producing commercially important proteins such as enzymes used in amino acid biosynthesis, metabolism, transcription, translation, RNA processing, nucleic acid and a protein degradation, protein modification, and DNA replication, restriction, modification, recombination, and repair.

The present invention further provides systems, particularly computer-based systems, which contain the sequence information described herein. Such systems are designed to identify commercially important fragments of the nucleic acid molecule of the present invention. As used herein, "a computer-based system" refers to the hardware means, software means, and data storage means used to analyze the nucleotide sequence information of the present invention. The minimum hardware means of the computer-based systems of the present invention comprises a central processing unit (CPU), input means, output means, and data storage means. A skilled artisan can readily appreciate that any one of the currently available computer-based system are suitable for use in the present invention.

As indicated above, the computer-based systems of the present invention comprise a data storage means having stored therein a nucleotide sequence of the present invention and the necessary hardware

means and software means for supporting and implementing a search means. As used herein, "data storage means" refers to memory that can store nucleotide sequence information of the present invention, or a memory access means which can access manufactures having recorded thereon the nucleotide sequence information of the present invention. As used herein, "search means" refers to one or more programs which are implemented on the computer-based system to compare a target sequence or target structural motif with the sequence information stored within the data storage means. Search means are used to identify fragments or regions of the sequence of the present invention that match a particular target sequence or target motif. A variety of known algorithms are disclosed publicly and a variety of commercially available software for conducting search means are available and can be used in the computer-based systems of the present invention. Examples of such software include, but are not limited to, MacPattern (EMBL), BLASTIN and BLASTIX (NCBIA). One of the available algorithms or implementing software packages for conducting homology searches can be adapted for use in the present computer-based systems.

The most preferred sequence length of a target sequence is from about 10 to 100 amino acids or from about 30 to 300 nucleotide residues. However, it is well recognized that during searches for commercially important fragments of the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention, such as sequence fragments involved in gene expression and protein processing, may be of shorter length.

As used herein, "a target structural motif," or "target motif," refers to any rationally selected sequence or combination of sequences in which the sequences or sequence(s) are chosen based on a three-dimensional configuration which is formed upon the folding of the target motif. There are a variety of target motifs known in the art. Protein target motifs include, but are not limited to, enzymatic active sites and signal sequences. Nucleic acid target motifs include, but are not limited to, promoter sequences, cis elements, hairpin structures and inducible expression elements (protein binding sequences).

Thus, the present invention further provides an input means for receiving a target sequence, a data storage means for storing the target sequences of the present invention sequence identified using a search means as described above, and an output means for outputting the identified homologous sequences. A variety of structural formats for the input and output means can be used to input and output information in the computer-based systems of the present invention. A preferred format for an output means ranks fragments of the sequence of the present invention by varying degrees of homology to the target sequence or target motif. Such presentation provides a skilled artisan with a ranking of sequences which contain various amounts of the target sequence or target motif and identifies the degree of homology contained in the identified fragment.

A variety of comparing means can be used to compare a target sequence or target motif with the data storage means to identify sequence fragments sequence of the present invention. For example, implementing software which implement the BLAST and BLAZE algorithms (Altschul *et al.*, *J. Mol. Biol.* 215:403-410 (1990)) can be used to identify open frames within the nucleic acid molecules of the present invention. A skilled artisan can readily recognize that any one of the publicly available homology search programs can be used as the search means for the computer-based systems of the present invention. Having now generally described the invention, the same will be more readily understood through reference to the following examples which are provided by way of illustration, and are not intended to be limiting of the present invention, unless specified.

Example 1

The LIB3825 cDNA library is generated from primed seeds. The *Gossypium hirsutum* variety DP50B is used for collection. The seeds are subjected to Solid Matrix Priming, a proprietary process that enhances the germination and cold vigor of cotton seeds. The primed seeds are then dried down to its original moisture and stored at 4°C. After storage at 4°C, the primed seeds are hydrated at 25°C for about 2.5 hours. A cut is made at the broad side of the hull and the seed is squeezed out directly into a test tube immersed in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C until total RNA preparation. The RNA is prepared from the stored tissue and the cDNA library is constructed as described in Example 2.

The LIB3826 cDNA library is generated from non-primed seeds. The *Gossypium hirsutum* variety DP50B is used for collection. The non-primed seed are hydrated at 25°C for about 2.5 hours. A cut is made at the broad side of the hull and the seed is squeezed out directly into a test tube immersed in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C until total RNA preparation. The RNA is prepared from the stored tissue and the cDNA library is constructed as described in Example 2.

The LIB3827 cDNA library is generated from mature seeds. The *Gossypium hirsutum* variety Coker 312 Boswell 96 Field is used for collection. The mature seeds are frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C until total RNA preparation. The RNA is prepared from the stored tissue and the cDNA library is constructed as described in Example 2.

The LIB3828 cDNA library is generated from androecium tissue harvested from cotton plants. The *Gossypium hirsutum* variety Nucotton33B is used for collection. Seeds are planted in trays containing Metromix 350 potting soil premixed with fertilizers. Plants are grown in a greenhouse in 16hr day / 8 hr night cycles with an average relative humidity of *ca.* 50%. Daytime and night time temperature are 90°F and 74°F respectively. Daytime light levels are measured at 600-1000 mEinstein/m². Plants are watered daily in the morning and as needed in the afternoon. Plants receive 1 or 2 applications of Pix to

control excessive growth. 1/3 grown squares (~0.4 cm floral buds) are harvested from the plants and dissected to separate androecium tissue from other tissues. The harvested androecium tissue is immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen and then stored at -80°C until total RNA preparation. The RNA is prepared from the stored tissue and the cDNA library is constructed as described in Example 2.

5 The LIB3829 cDNA library is generated from gynoecium tissue harvested from cotton plants. The *Gossypium hirsutum* variety Nucotton33B is used for collection. Seeds are planted in trays containing Metromix 350 potting soil premixed with fertilizers. Plants are grown in a greenhouse in 16hr day / 8 hr night cycles with an average relative humidity of *ca.* 50%. Daytime and night time temperature are 90°F and 74°F respectively. Daytime light levels are measured at 600-1000 mEinsteins/m². Plants are
10 watered daily in the morning and as needed in the afternoon. Plants receive 1 or 2 applications of Pix to control excessive growth. 1/3 grown squares (~0.4 cm floral buds) are harvested from the plants and dissected to separate gynoecium tissue from other tissues. The harvested gynoecium tissue is immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen and then stored at -80°C until total RNA preparation. The RNA is prepared from the stored tissue and the cDNA library is constructed as described in Example 2.

15 The LIB3830 cDNA library is generated from developing fibers collected from cotton plants. The *Gossypium hirsutum* variety Nucotton33B is used for collection. Seeds are planted in trays containing Metromix 350 potting soil premixed with fertilizers. Plants are grown in a greenhouse in 16hr day / 8 hr night cycles with an average relative humidity of *ca.* 50%. Daytime and night time temperature are 90°F and 74°F respectively. Daytime light levels are measured at 600-1000 mEinsteins/m². Plants are
20 watered daily in the morning and as needed in the afternoon. Plants receive 1 or 2 applications of Pix to control excessive growth. Bolls 23-28 dpa (days post anthesis) are removed from the plant and dissected to separate fibers from other tissues. This sample contains the fibers and may also contain unfertilized ovules. The harvested tissue is immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen and then stored at -80°C until total RNA preparation. The RNA is prepared from the stored tissue and the cDNA library is constructed as
25 described in Example 2.

The LIB3831 cDNA library is generated from carpel walls and septa collected from cotton plants. The *Gossypium hirsutum* variety Nucotton33B is used for collection. Seeds are planted in trays containing Metromix 350 potting soil premixed with fertilizers. Plants are grown in a greenhouse in 16hr day / 8 hr night cycles with an average relative humidity of *ca.* 50%. Daytime and night time temperature
30 are 90°F and 74°F respectively. Daytime light levels are measured at 600-1000 mEinsteins/m². Plants are watered daily in the morning and as needed in the afternoon. Plants receive 1 or 2 applications of Pix to control excessive growth. Bolls 1-10 dpa (days post anthesis) are removed from the plant and dissected to separate carpel walls and septa from other tissues. The harvested tissue is immediately frozen in liquid

nitrogen and then stored at -80°C until total RNA preparation. The RNA is prepared from the stored tissue and the cDNA library is constructed as described in Example 2.

Example 2

5 For RNA preparation, the stored cotton tissue is grounded thoroughly in liquid nitrogen and then incubated with a high SDS solution (about 2.5% SDS by weight, 0.1 M Tris-HCl (pH7.5), 2.5 M sodium perchlorate, 0.1% b-mercaptoethanol by volume) and insoluble PVPP (about 8.5% by weight) for about 30 minutes at the room temperature. Nucleic acids are then precipitated after filtration. The total RNA is isolated from the precipitate using Trizol reagent from Life Technologies (Gibco BRL, Life
10 Technologies, Gaithersburg, Maryland U.S.A.), essentially as recommended by the manufacturer. Poly A+ RNA (mRNA) is purified using magnetic oligo dT beads essentially as recommended by the manufacturer (Dynabeads, Dynal Corporation, Lake Success, New York U.S.A.).

Construction of plant cDNA libraries is well-known in the art and a number of cloning strategies exist. A number of cDNA library construction kits are commercially available. The Superscript™
15 Plasmid System for cDNA synthesis and Plasmid Cloning (Gibco BRL, Life Technologies, Gaithersburg, Maryland U.S.A.) is used, following the conditions suggested by the manufacturer.

Example 3

The cDNA libraries are plated on LB agar containing the appropriate antibiotics for selection and
20 incubated at 37° for a sufficient time to allow the growth of individual colonies. Single colonies are individually placed in each well of a 96-well microtiter plates containing LB liquid including the selective antibiotics. The plates are incubated overnight at approximately 37°C with gentle shaking to promote growth of the cultures. The plasmid DNA is isolated from each clone using Qiaprep plasmid isolation kits, using the conditions recommended by the manufacturer (Qiagen Inc., Santa Clara,
25 California U.S.A.).

The template plasmid DNA clones are used for subsequent sequencing. For sequencing the cDNA libraries LIB3825, LIB3826, LIB3827, LIB3828, LIB3829, LIB3830, and LIB3831, a commercially available sequencing kit, such as the ABI PRISM dRhodamine Terminator Cycle Sequencing Ready Reaction Kit with AmpliTaq® DNA Polymerase, FS, is used under the conditions
30 recommended by the manufacturer (PE Applied Biosystems, Foster City, CA). The ESTs of the present invention are generated by sequencing initiated from the 5' end of each cDNA clone.

A number of sequencing techniques are known in the art, including fluorescence-based sequencing methodologies. These methods have the detection, automation and instrumentation

capability necessary for the analysis of large volumes of sequence data. Currently, the 377 DNA Sequencer (Perkin-Elmer Corp., Applied Biosystems Div., Foster City, CA) allows the most rapid electrophoresis and data collection. With these types of automated systems, fluorescent dye-labeled sequence reaction products are detected and data entered directly into the computer, producing a chromatogram that is subsequently viewed, stored, and analyzed using the corresponding software programs. These methods are known to those of skill in the art and have been described and reviewed (Birren *et al.*, *Genome Analysis: Analyzing DNA*,¹ Cold Spring Harbor, New York, the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference).